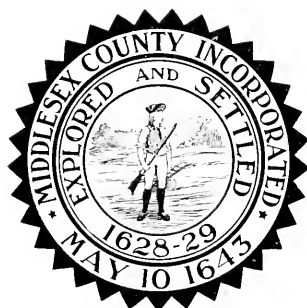




Compliments to
Deo J. Gould



NEW COUNTY SEAL

Of the County of Middlesex. Adopted by Vote
of the Board of County Commissioners
July 15, 1905

ANCIENT MIDDLESEX

WITH BRIEF

Biographical Sketches

OF THE

*Men Who Have Served the County
Officially Since Its Settlement*

BY LEVI S. GOULD



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1905

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THE LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four.

[CHAPTER 238.]

AN ACT

To authorize the Printing and Distribution of a History of
the Officials of the County of Middlesex.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,
as follows :—

1. SECTION 1. The County Commissioners of the county
2. of Middlesex are hereby authorized and empowered to
3. print, at the expense of said county, the "history of the
4. officials of the county of Middlesex," as prepared by Levi
5. S. Gould, and to distribute the same without charge
6. among the public libraries and other public institutions
7. of said county, and among such other persons or institu-
8. tions as they may see fit: *provided*, that the entire ex-
9. pense of such printing and distribution shall not exceed
10. seven hundred and fifty dollars.

1. SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its pas-
2. sage.

Approved April 14, 1904.

EDITOR'S NOTE

To the inhabitants of Middlesex County: It is not intended to dignify the rambling sketches which follow as in any sense a general history of Middlesex County; such an undertaking has been attempted by others, but without signal success. A great deal has been written, however, by a multitude of authors, among whom Samuel Adams Drake and William T. Davis are conspicuous, of deep interest to every American citizen, and it is to be hoped that some one of commanding ability as an historical writer may yet appear to collect the multitude of scattered fragments and cement them together in an harmonious volume. Much of the matter herein has been gathered from storehouses of information open to all who care to investigate, and have the essential elements of time and patience at their command. It was collated as a "labor of love," without the hope of fee or reward, and with no thought of publication for general circulation, but at the earnest solicitation of many citizens of Middlesex, and under the authority conferred by Chap. 238 of the Acts of 1904, is now published by the Commissioners, as a collection of portraits and biographical sketches of faithful officials, considered worthy of preservation amongst the public archives and municipal libraries of the County. To this has been added certain incidents believed to be of public interest, and others of historic value to all the people of ancient Middlesex. Believing that likenesses are of special interest in biographical sketches, every method which experience could suggest has been adopted to obtain them, and where they do not appear it is good opinion that none ever existed, or, if they did, have been lost through lapse of time or indifference, or at least cannot be identified if still in existence. The Editor regrets that any are missing. Portraits in Colonial times were very expensive, and therefore rare, being obtained only by bringing artists to New England from the

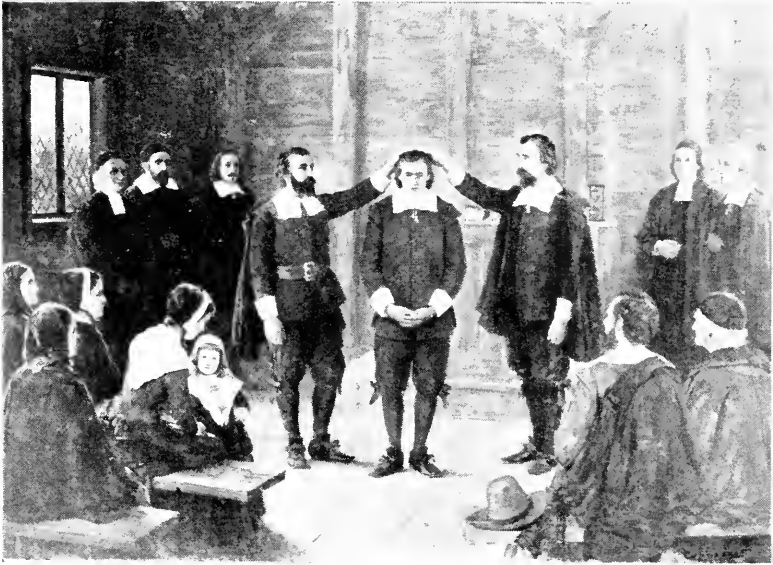
mother country, or by going abroad to meet them. About the period of the Revolution, however, miniatures and silhouettes were common enough, until the advent of daguerreotypes had revolutionized the art of picture making. The likenesses herewith are largely reproductions of family relics, which in the originals were a somewhat motley collection of paintings, lithographs, sketches, daguerreotypes, and photographs obtained only by the expenditure of many months of patient research and earnest solicitation. The signatures are mostly fac-similes traced from original official documents. The compiler has indulged in sentiments and opinions of his own, which, if seemingly overdrawn, should be excused as perhaps a superabundance of zealous admiration for the life work of the founders and patriots, and for all other elements which have contributed to the settlement, progress, and welfare of this most historic county. In addition to those who cannot be specially enumerated, he is deeply indebted to the New England Historic Genealogical Society for the use of its superb collection of genealogical records; to the State Librarian, C. B. Tillinghast, Esq.; to the Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, Charles K. Bolton, Esq.; to Horace G. Wadlin, Esq., Librarian of the Boston Public Library, for permission to peruse its valuable files of ancient newspapers; to William C. Lane, Esq., Librarian Harvard University; to the American Library Association of Boston; to Charles Cowley, Esq., of Lowell; and to Dr. Samuel A. Green, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for kindly information.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George F. Gould". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent, sweeping flourish that extends from the end of the name.

Chairman
County Commissioners

Melrose, January, 1905.

AN INCIDENT OF THE EARLY COLONIAL PERIOD

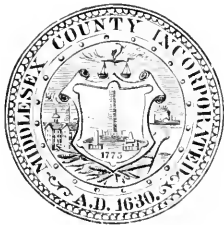


ORDINATION OF REV. THOMAS CARTER. FIRST MINISTER OF WOBURN.
From a Painting in the Woburn Public Library.

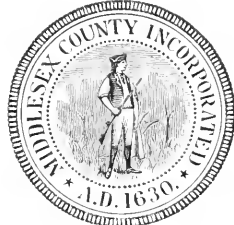
Key to the Painting—The figure in the centre of the picture is a representation (ideal) of the Rev. Thomas Carter, when two lay members of his church were in the act of "laying on hands." The man with the belt represents Capt. Edward Johnson; the other is unknown. The ministers in the background are, from the reader's left hand, first, John Cotton of Boston; second, Richard Mather of Dorchester; third, John Eliot of Roxbury; fourth, at the side of the pulpit, John Wilson of Boston—the faces of these four are taken from contemporary portraits—all the other figures are imaginary. The man on a bench with his cloak slipping from his shoulders represents Increase Nowell, a magistrate whose duty it was to be present. Besides the ministers whose names have been mentioned, there were present Symmes and Allen of Charlestown, Shepard of Cambridge, Dunster, president of Harvard college, Knowles of Watertown and Allin of Dedham.



JOHN WINTHROP, Gov. OF MASS. BAY COLONY.
From 1629 to 1634, from 1637 to 1640, and from 1642 to 1644.



OLD SEAL



PRESENT SEAL

Impressed upon the broad seal of the County of Middlesex is the following legend: Incorporated A. D. 1630. How or when this historical inaccuracy occurred it is impossible to ascertain. The records show that Middlesex-shire, Essex-shire, Suffolk-shire, and Norfolk-shire were legally incorporated May 10, 1643, the latter county not being the present Norfolk, but a county including the towns of Salisbury and Haverhill in Massachusetts, and Hampton, Exeter, Dover, and Strawberry Bank, now Portsmouth, in the province of New Hampshire. It is very likely, however, that the date of 1630 is intended to conform to the arrival of John Winthrop, who brought the new charter fixing the limits of what many are pleased to term as the original territory of Middlesex County, being from three miles south of the Charles river to three miles north of the Merrimack; with a limitless boundary westward to the sea, in other words, stretching for an equal width from the Atlantic to the Pacific! As it exists to-day, what an empire has been developed within those original lines, rivalling the wealth of the Indies! That charter covered the present locations of Troy, Albany, Buffalo, Dunkirk, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Chicago, Dubuque, Sioux City, Fort Laramie, and many other important cities; it would take a strip out of the states of New York, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon; it would graze the border lines of California, Nevada, and Utah, and through a claim to most of the waters of Lakes Erie and Saint Clair had the power to control the mighty commerce of the Great Lakes!

Jo. Winthrop

It was in 1614, six years before the landing of the Pilgrims, that Captain John Smith, on a voyage of discovery, sailed into "the opening betwixt Cape Cod and Cape Ann," now Boston Harbor, but at that time known only by the Indian names of "Shawmut and Mishawum," the latter referring to the present location of Charlestown. On Smith's return to England, he described the country in glowing terms to the Prince of Wales, later on the ill-fated monarch Charles I., who gave the name of "Charles" river to its principal stream. In 1622 a royal patent, which included Mishawum and Shawmut, was issued to Robert Georges, but it is not apparent that any settlements under it were effected north of the Charles in the territory later known as Middlesex County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo: Endecott 1667". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Jo:" and the last name "Endecott" being more prominent than the year "1667".

The charter of the corporation known as "The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England," under the provisions of which it became possible to settle the territory known as Middlesex County, was originally granted to John Endecott and others in the month of March, 1628. Subsequently its powers were enlarged and others granted shares therein, among them being John Winthrop, who came over as Chief Governor in the "Arbella," arriving in Salem June 12, 1630, Endecott's position thereafter being that of Local Governor. The officers sanctioned by the charter were a "Governor, Deputy Governor, eighteen Assistants" [a Treasurer, Secretary of the General Court, Major-General, Admiral at Sea, and Commissioners of the United Colonies], to be chosen by the Freemen at a General Court to be holden on the last Wednesday in Easter. The Freemen (or legal voters) were only such as were members in good standing of a church, so that heretics or irreligious persons were absolutely excluded from all participation in any affairs of government. The territory conveyed in the words of the charter was, "That part of New England between Merrimack river and Charles river, in the bottom of Massachusetts bay, and three

miles to the south of every part of Charles river and of the southernmost part of said bay, and three miles to the north of every part of said Merrimack river and in length within the breadth aforesaid from the Atlantic ocean to the South sea," etc. The first "Court of Assistants" was holden on board the Governor's ship, "Arbella," in Charlestown Harbor, August 23, 1630, and the first General Court was convened at Boston October 19 of the same year. The General Court was to consist of the "Governor, the Assistants, and all the Freemen of the Colony," and was to assemble "four times a year," when necessary, officers were chosen and laws and ordinances enacted. Besides "ordering and dispatching such business as should from time to time happen touching said company or plantation," the General Court was charged with "settling the forms and ceremonies of government and magistracy," the "imposition of lawful fines, mullets, imprisonment, or other lawful correction," etc., partaking of a judicial character. As may be seen, this charter contains all the essential elements of pure democracy, and it was granted by Charles I., that ill-fated monarch who lost his head to the Puritanical sentiment of the mother country, which proclaimed him as a "tyrant, a murderer, and a traitor to his country"; nevertheless, to use his own words, this charter was granted "so that the inhabitants may be so religiously, peaceably, and civilly governed as their good life and orderly conversation may win and invite the natives of the country to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Savior of mankind." As the General Court was composed of all the Freemen in the colony, and the officers were annually elected by "show of hands," it was to all intents and purposes a town meeting presided over by the Governor or some other official. In the course of time the inevitable happened (just as it has in later days by the transition of towns into cities), as the population had increased by immigration and plantations had pushed out into the wilderness to such a distance from the common meeting place, that it finally became not only inconvenient, but at times positively dangerous, to attend the stated conclave of the court. In this dilemma, constantly increasing, the Freemen got together in their scattered communities and chose delegates from among themselves,

clothing them with the power to do all things which they themselves might do if personally present, except the right to elect "The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, Treasurer, Secretary of the General Court, Major-General, Admiral at Sea, and Commissioners of the United Colonies," which right, except in the matter of obsolete officials, has been handed down to the present generation. The first meeting of delegates assembled in General Court on the fourteenth day of May, 1634, and they represented the towns of Newtown (now Cambridge), Watertown, Charlestown, Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Saugus, which included Lynn and Salem apparently. As Virginia appears to have adopted a similar method in 1620, it seems to be certain that the above was the second body, composed of a direct and equal representation of all the people which ever assembled for the purposes of legislation. During a period of 270 years, through the entanglement of all forms of political intrigues and alliances, with the mutability of religious and social problems to contend with, the basic principle of equal representation embodied in that gathering has never been abandoned, neither have the people seriously considered such a proposition. In all the preliminaries attending the establishing of a permanent form of government by Governor John Winthrop, the arena was principally in Middlesex County, and the actors therein were largely her citizens.

The actual settlement of Charlestown, which formed the nucleus of Middlesex County, must be ascribed to Ralph, Richard, and William Sprague, three young gentlemen of moderate wealth and of a good family, who left "old England" as sailing companions of John Endecott, the intrepid, on his memorable voyage to Salem in 1628.* By permission of Endecott, these three brothers started out on foot and penetrated the wilderness. They came to the junction of two rivers, where they found an Indian fishing village called Mishawum, now Charlestown, and it was they who, by consent of the aborigines, established at this point what may be justly assumed to be the original settlement of Middlesex County, in 1628-1629. Of the heroic

*Some authorities contend that they came the next year. See memorial, Sprague family, by Richard Soule, Jr., p. 88 to 97.

band who followed them there, more than one hundred succumbed to the privations of the winter of 1629, and the remainder, sick and discouraged, must have perished except for the timely arrival of Governor John Winthrop in 1630. During that year seventeen ships arrived, bringing 1,500 people, but they in turn were so illy prepared to withstand the rigors of the New England climate through lack of food, medicine, and shelter that more than two hundred died before winter had really set in, and many others thereafter.

Ralph Sprague 1634

Richard Sprague

William Sprague

At this point it is well to refer more particularly to the Sprague brothers. They were the sons of Edward Sprague, a fuller, of Upway County of Dorset, England. Ralph was about twenty-nine years of age on his arrival. He resided in Charlestown and Malden all the rest of his days, and his tombstone, with that of his brother Richard, is still to be seen in the old Phipps-street burial place in a fair state of preservation.* The General Court elected him a Constable of Charlestown in 1630. In 1634 he was a member of the first board of Selectmen, and in 1635 and afterwards—in all, nine years—he was a representative to the General Court. He was, in 1638, a member of the A. & H. A. Co., and in 1647 Lieutenant and Captain of the train-band. Some of his children were born in England; three of them, John, Samuel, and Phineas, settled in Malden, where each founded families, that of Phineas being specially prominent down to the

*Joanna Sprague, his widow, according to ancient records, married Deacon Edward Converse, of Woburn, September 9, 1662. Deacon Converse in his will made in 1659 mentions a wife then living, but as he did not die until 1663, probably the first wife died previous to 1662.—[Ed.]

present generation. With his brother Richard, he owned quite a tract of land at "Pond Feilde," now in the heart of the city of Melrose. It was occupied by his descendants during many generations. He died in Malden in 1650. Richard, the second son of Ralph, was a wealthy and influential citizen of Charlestown. He was born in England. In 1674 he commanded an armed vessel during the war of that period, and cruised in Long Island Sound to protect the commerce of that section. He was representative to the General Court in 1681, from which he was expelled on account of the Andros episode, but was repeatedly re-elected thereafter. Captain of train-band, 1680, and deposed of his command in 1689 for upholding Andros. Sergeant A. H. A., 1683. He died in 1703, bequeathing a handsome sum to Harvard College and to other worthy purposes. Richard, the second of the three brothers, was perhaps the most prominent of either. He died in Charlestown, without issue, November 25, 1668. He was captain of a pinnace, on which he made many trading voyages, and finally became a merchant. He was one of the Selectmen, and a representative to the General Court in 1644, and from 1659 to 1666. He was captain of the Charlestown Train Band, a member of the A. & H. A. Co., first sergeant in 1652, ensign in 1659, and lieutenant in 1665, and altogether quite a military character, as shown by his love for the sword he carried, which was bequeathed by him to his brother William, who in turn handed it down to his son Anthony. He left a large estate for the times, distributed principally to his nephews, but he left a bequest, among the first of note, to Harvard College, viz.: "thirty-one sheep and thirty lambs," probably to crop the college green!

Edward Coward 1658

William was the youngest, being barely twenty years old when he came. He married Millicent Eames, of Charlestown, in 1635, and settled in Hingham in 1636, where he was Selectman in 1645 and Constable in 1661. He died in 1675. No stone marks his resting place. He founded a large and highly respected family. Among others, Judge Peleg W. Sprague, a

Senator of the United States, was a descendant. While the Spragues must ever be considered as dominant factors in the exploration and first settlement of Middlesex County, truthful history should not lose sight of the fact that they discovered, on their arrival at Mishawum, an "English house, thatch'd and palizad'd," inhabited by a smith named Thomas Walford, who "received them coldly." He had a wife, Jane, accused later on of being a witch, and three children. How he got there, and why he remained, has never been satisfactorily ascertained, but it was said that he manufactured articles contraband of war for the Indians; at all events, he was not in accord, spiritually or otherwise, with our Puritan fathers, who finally sequestered his estate and drove him into the wilderness. Previously to this he had been fined for some trifling offense, which he paid by killing a wolf! His principal offense seems to have been in remaining faithful to the Church of England, which in those days could not be condoned. Probably he was not a really bad man, as subsequent history proves. He appears to have settled in the neighborhood of what is now the city of Portsmouth, where he became somewhat conspicuous in church and state, and died in November, 1660, leaving a valuable property and a son of prominence. Thus it is that the first Englishman to establish a home among the savages of Middlesex County, and to live with them in peace, paving the way for others, became the first victim of the bigotry and intolerance of his own countrymen. He may have been an original settler under the patent of Robert Georges, as some authorities assert that he came to Weymouth with the "Wessagussett" colony in 1623, and that he went to Mishawum in 1625 to '27, after the former settlement had been abandoned.

Wgmab  *Walford*

Besides Thomas Walford the ancient record contains only the names of the following persons as contemporary with the Spragues at Charlestown in 1629, viz.:—

Thomas Graves, a general expert in engineering, mining, and mineralogy, came from Gravesend, county of Kent, England.

Engaged by the Massachusetts Bay Company, March 5, 1628, he came to Salem with Endecott, or, as some authorities assert, with Higginson, and shortly afterwards moved to Charlestown, where he "laid out the town in lots" and built the "Great House" in the square, previous to the arrival of Winthrop, by whom it was occupied until his removal to Boston. It is believed to have been in existence as late as 1775, when the town was burned by the British. He is said to have been one of the Commissioners to lay out the town of Woburn, and that he became one of its first town officers, but the latter statement is open to doubt, as he has been frequently confounded with "Rear Admiral" Thomas Graves, who was a resident of Woburn in its earliest history, and became quite active in public affairs. Thomas the "Admiral" died May 31, 1653, leaving a large estate. The technological training of Thomas the engineer must have been of great service to the colony. The date and place of his death have not been ascertained. For some misdemeanor the Court of Assistants in 1631 ordered the house of "Thomas Graves at Marble Harbor to be torn down," and that "no Englishman" should "give him entertainment," thus making him an outlaw beyond the possibility of relief.

Tho: Graves

Abraham Palmer, a merchant from London, came over with Higginson. He was Deputy from Charlestown to the first General Court in 1634, and Town Clerk, besides holding other important town offices. He was a military man, and took part in the Pequot war as sergeant. He sailed in the Mayflower of Boston for Barbadoes in 1652, on a venture to be settled in London. He died the following year either in London or Barbadoes, authorities differ.

Abr. Palmer

Walter Palmer, was, without doubt, a younger brother of Abraham. September 28, 1630, he was acquitted of the murder of one Austin Brateler, who was killed on the Cradock farm in Medford "by blows on the head" during the summer of 1630. He was a constable of Charlestown in 1633. In 1643 he was in Rehoboth, and in 1646-7 the first Representative from that town.

In 1650 he was surveyor of highways there. In 1653 he removed to Stonington. His will was probated in the Suffolk Registry May 11, 1662. His descendants were numerous.

Nicholas Stowers

Nicholas Stowers, was one of the founders of the church in Charlestown, and also a member of the church in Boston in 1630. He was an active and useful citizen. He died in Charlestown March 17, 1646.

Nicholas Stowers

Simon Hoyte, was originally of Dorchester, and went to Charlestown in 1629. In 1633 he was living in Scituate. He was of Windsor in 1639, of Fairfield in 1650, and of Stamford, Conn., in 1659, where he died during that year.

Rev. Francis Bright was bred in Oxford, England, in 1603, and matriculated at the New College in 1625. With his wife and two children he came to Charlestown in the "Lion's Whelp" in 1629. After remaining about two years, he became discouraged, and returned to England in 1630 or '31.

John Stickline (or Stickling). He probably removed to Watertown in 1630, from which town he served as a juryman May 18, 1631. He afterwards appears to have removed to Weathersfield, Conn.

John Meech (or March), was an inhabitant in 1628-29. John March, who may have been the same man, made a will which was probated in 1665. The latter John was a town officer. If he was not the "John Meech" mentioned, then all record of the original John is lost.

NOTE.—These two men, Edward Johnson and John Mousell, were among the first settlers of Woburn.—[Ed.]

Edward Johnson. 1658. John Mousell 1658.

The hardships and privations which fell to the lot of the colonists were of the severest character. Gentle women, accustomed to the comforts of an English home, came with their husbands, and were obliged to endure the rigors of the seasons "in hastily constructed log houses, the interstices of which were rudely filled with mud or clay," utterly inadequate to afford protection from the biting blasts of winter, and but scantily furnished with the commonest necessities of domestic life. Surrounded by "dreary wastes of fen and marsh," with dense forests stretching into the interior far beyond the knowledge of man, inhabited by hostile Indians, with myriads of hungry wolves and other savage beasts prowling about, they must have lived in constant dread and peril; but this was not all; famine stared them in the face, as their crops were almost a failure during the first two years, and they were obliged to subsist principally on shell-fish, mussels, clams, lobsters, and the like for meat, and on ground-nuts and acorns as substitutes for bread. Little wonder, then, that the ranks of this devoted band faded away through fever and the many climatic ills which afflict us to this day, even in the possession of all the comforts of the civilization of the twentieth century. One witness and participator in their sufferings wrote: "Almost in every family lamentation, mourning, and woe were heard, and no fresh food to cherish them." Another witness said: "Many died weekly, yea almost daily." Amid all these trials and tribulations their heroic spirits were not broken, but only cast down, and they looked forward with abiding faith in the God of their salvation for that heavenly benediction which finally came as the harvest of their sufferings. The heroic struggles of these devoted pioneers were reflected a century and a half later upon the historic fields of ancient Middlesex, where their descendants, fired by the same self-sacrificing spirit of loyalty to God and their hearthstones, completed the fabric of political and religious freedom which their forefathers, under the special sanction of the King of England, had unwittingly founded in 1629 and 1630.

Among other things of interest in connection with the court records of ancient Middlesex, it is recorded in 1640 that Charles-town possessed "a Water-Mill near Spot Pond."

The County Court held in "Charles-Towne" June 9, 1656,

Mr. Bellingham, Deputy Governor and Captain David Gookin, Majors Willard and Appleton sitting as assistants, entered up the following judgment in the first divorce proceedings commenced in the courts of Middlesex:—

“William Clemence craving a divorce from his wife; do judge it not meet to grant them a divorce at present, but do order that they both owne each other according to their marriage covenant, and that upon complaint made such party as shall be found faulty in refusing so to do shall be severally punished.”

December 27, 1659, the court fixed the County Recorder's salary at £6 13s 4d for the year!

April 2, 1661, the keeper of the County Prison was allowed £5 per annum!

April 3, 1660, “In presence of the court,” one Thomas Browneing, a burglar, was branded in the forehead with a letter B.

June, 1657, the Court passed an order directing the “committee on erection of Misticke Bridge” to “impress any carpenters or sawyers for a fortnight's labor or less.” This must have been identical in location with the bridge now existing at Medford square, over which the travel of northeastern Middlesex and most of Essex and the province of Maine passed in colonial times.

It is very evident that the custom of illegal voting is not of recent origin, as the General Court more than 250 years ago found it necessary to enact the following order: “It is ordered, if any person shall put in more than one paper or bean for the choice of any officer, he shall forfeit ten pounds for every offence, and any man that is not free, putting in any vote shall forfeit ten pounds.” It was a common custom with our forefathers to use Indian corn and beans as a substitute for written or printed ballots in voting for candidates at town and other elections; if the kernels of corn were in the majority it indicated an election, otherwise a defeat; in this manner the voting continued on one name at a time until someone was elected. The General Court also enacted the following: “Noe person, either man or woman, shall hereafter make, buy, or wear, any apparell with any lace on it, gold, silk, or threade, or any gold or silver girdles, etc,” de-

claring that the "excessive wearing of lace and other superfluities" tended "to the nourishing of pride and exhausting of men's estates." The "eating of cake or buns except at burials, marriages, and such like occasions" was also prohibited by statute, and so was the wearing of "short sleeves" by women, "whereby the nakedness of the arms may be discovered," and the wearing of "longe hair" by men, being "prejudicial to the public good, any one persisting therein should be presented to the next Court." The observance of Christmas was looked upon as a species of idolatry, punishable as a crime similar to those convicted of the "throwing of dice or the playing of cards!" It is a matter of interest to the present generation to know that flesh as an article of food, except in the form of fish or game, was practically unknown to the common people of New England, until after the expiration of the first century of immigration; their oxen were necessary as beasts of burden, their cows indispensable for milk and the reproduction of their species, and their sheep for wool. Fowl were scarce and useful for their eggs, so that no domestic animal could be spared for slaughter. Hasty pudding, hominy, milk, and a sort of porridge, or compound of odds and ends, constituted the ordinary meal, baked beans and brown bread having been introduced at a much later period. Cooking utensils were few and simple, while knives and forks were not in common use even in the old country, until many years after the settlement of Middlesex; the fingers of our Puritan ancestors being quite as handy as forks for the solids, while rude wooden spoons answered for the liquids and for other purposes. As late as the days of Queen "Bess," it was expected that each guest at an Englishman's feast would bring his own knife, with which to carve from the food furnished by the host, eating the pieces from the fingers. Wooden ware was in common use, the well-to-do using pewter. Tea and coffee were not imported to any extent for several generations after the advent of the first settlers. Coffee was not introduced into the mother country until more than thirty years after the landing of the Pilgrims, and tea as late as 1728 was selling at a price which prohibited its use except by the nobility or others of great wealth, viz.: at from eight to ten dollars a pound. The capacity of the farming community for the consumption of cider

about the Revolutionary period must have been prodigious; indeed, many of them could have drank but little else. It was undoubtedly used at every meal. Most of the farms during the later Colonial days were overrun with wild apple trees, the fruit of which was fit only for cider. It is related that a Carlisle farmer rolled into his cellar one hundred barrels of cider every fall, taking them out to be re-filled the next season. As this large amount was all consumed by his family, it would furnish each member thereof with two and one-half gallons every day in the year! We have also the evidence contained in ancient wills, where provision was made for the support of widows, that about that amount of cider per capita was considered a necessity. In June, 1777, the Selectmen of Concord fixed the prices to be charged for all commodities, including labor. Common laborers were allowed sixty-three cents per day, and carpenters sixty-seven. As early as 1741 the Selectmen of Chelmsford established a similar code for the regulation of wages and prices of almost every article in common use. As an illustration of values 164 years ago, wood could be bought at that time in that town for thirty-seven cents a cord! All who varied the rates established by the Selectmen were deemed "monopolists and public enemies," and prosecuted accordingly. Legislation to restrict and punish monopolies is nothing new.

Middlesex County, since the days of the Spragues, of Winthrop, and other pioneers of the Western wilderness, has become a mighty power in this Commonwealth. The dawn of the twentieth century casts its refulgent splendor upon more than five hundred and sixty-five thousand souls, scattered over an area of eight hundred square miles within its forty-three towns and eleven cities; a population nearly equalling that of the County of Suffolk, its only rival within this Commonwealth; greater than that of any city save New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis, and outstripping the recent census of twenty-two of the states and territories of our Union! The waters of its four principal rivers, the Charles, Concord, Nashua, and Merrimack, from their sources to the sea, probably drive more spindles than all others in America, and, it may be, than those of any four rivers in the world. Her first court house was burned in Cambridge in

1671. History gives no intimation as to the erection of this building, but as early as March 3, 1635, Cambridge was designated as one of the four towns in Massachusetts Colony where courts should be held, Ipswich, Salem, and Boston being the others. While it is certain that the Cambridge Court House was the first erected, it is equally certain that Charlestown also possessed County buildings of some kind at a very early period, the location of which cannot be definitely fixed, but it is believed that they were on the east side of the present City Hall square. Concord was a shire town from 1692 until 1867, a period of one hundred and seventy-five years, and Lowell has been thus honored since 1836. For a brief period courts were also held in Groton. Her population is increasing with greater rapidity than any other county, two of her municipalities, Everett and Melrose (now a city), showing the largest gains in the Commonwealth by the last state census, and she has within her borders one-third of all the cities of the Commonwealth.*

*It is interesting to note that no attempt to disrupt the territory of Ancient Middlesex through the formation of a new county has been successful, although the scheme was attempted as early as 120 years ago. The following communication, never heretofore published, was and is to-day a convincing argument against such action. The insatiate and overpowering greed of the city of Boston, however, swallowed up the town of Brighton in 1874, and the historic municipality of Charlestown disappeared from Ancient Middlesex and from the map the same year, from the same cause, after an honorable existence of almost 250 years.—[Ed.]

Cambridge, 10th May, 1784.

Gentlemen: The subscribers being appointed by the inhabitants of this town, a committee for taking all proper measures to prevent a division of this county, as requested by the inhabitants of the towns of Hopkinton, Holliston, Sherburn, and Natick, beg leave to lay their reasons before you for your consideration, and to desire your co-operation either by a communication of your sentiments to us, or by an instruction to your representative.

There are already as many terms of the supreme judicial court as can be attended with any tolerable convenience to them or the people at large, during that part of the year which is suitable for traveling. To multiply counties is therefore only increasing the evil and multiplying the embarrassments of a law suit, so far as respects an appeal. It is evident that the multiplication of counties necessarily increases the influ-

Tho: Dudley. 1630 Simon Bradstreet

All the glamor and all the weird and fancied charms of the dim and distant past are with us as we speculate upon the profound mysteries locked up within the relics of that amphitheatre on the banks of the Charles, where the hardy Norsemen are said to have builded a city and worshipped their Deities almost a thousand years ago; or, as we conjure up the illustrious names and the glorious records of those pioneers of American civilization who with their descendants in many generations have adorned the bench, pleaded at the bar, or left the stamp of character upon the institutions of this grand old county of ours: Thomas Dudley, Simon Bradstreet, Peter Bulkely, Increase Nowell, Simon Willard, of the long ago, and Edward Everett, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry D.

ence of government, by increasing the number of commissions in their gift. We do not mean that it gives the laws greater energy, for, if that was the consequence, we should not object. But it increases that kind of influence by which any measures of government may be enforced, whether constitutional or not. It appears to us equally true that two courts cannot sit for the same expense as will suffice for only one court. Not only two sets of judges are to be paid, but all the inferior officers and attendants on a court, as well juries as others. Admitting that by the division there will be less business for each, yet there will be, upon the whole, an increase of travel and every other charge incident to the holding of a court, and, at the same time, a greater probability of the business being imperfectly done, there being in the case of little business but small encouragement to study and to understand the laws.

You will also recollect that the support of county buildings and other charges of that kind will necessarily be increased by multiplying counties. We cannot think that the increase of charge by an unnecessary, even granting it to be a convenient, multiplication of offices is wisely contrived at a time when the necessary expenses of government are as great as can easily be borne. There is undoubtedly a time when divisions of this kind may with propriety take place. That time will be when the business of the counties cannot be done in their present form. While it can be done, and through the neglect or incapacity of any officer is not done, there is another and it appears to us a much less expen-

Thoreau, James Russell Lowell, Henry W. Longfellow, all natives or residents of Middlesex County, with scores of others living and dead, whose brilliant thoughts in later years have enriched the literature and ennobled the art of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Peter Bulkeley. 1629.

Enosus Flewett 1649

Simon Willard 1657.

A brief review of the life work of a few of the early settlers, as well as that of some of the natives of Middlesex who have advanced to a foremost rank in public service or in the development of commerce, mechanics, science, literature, or art, is interesting and profitable. Among the first is

sive remedy. Upon the whole, if these or any other reasons which you may think of are convincing to you, we shall hope for your support, and whether your sentiments be for or against the proposed division, we are desirous of a friendly communication of them.

We are, gentlemen, with respect,

Your very humble servants,

JAMES WINTHROP,

CALEB GANNETT,

To the Selectmen of Littleton.

WILLIAM WINTHROP,

James Winthrop was a graduate of Harvard in 1767 (son of Professor John); Register Probate from 1775 to 1817. He was fifth in descent from Governor John Winthrop.

William Winthrop was a graduate of Harvard in 1770 (son of Professor John, of Harvard); Register Deeds, 1784 to 1794. He was a brother of James.

Caleb Gannett was a public-spirited citizen of Cambridge.—[Ed.]

Rev. John Harvard,

John Harvard
1637

Whose name is as common as a household word, yet of whom little is known save that he was born near St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, a suburb of London, where the entry of his baptism still exists in the church register, with the date, November 29, 1607. His father seems to have "purveyed meat until the plague removed him." The son matriculated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, married Anne Sadler, and became a Puritan minister, but does not appear to have had a settlement. He was possessed of a modest inheritance, and came to this country accompanied by his wife in 1637. He was a young man of not more than thirty years, and in delicate health. Shortly after his arrival, he united with the First Church in Charlestown, and died of consumption the following year, September 14, 1638, leaving one-half his worldly estate, viz., £779, and a library of three hundred volumes to a school which the General Court had previously agreed to establish and endow with the sum of £400. This "school or college," was ordered by the Court on November 15, 1637, to be established at "Newe Towne." With the money, of which it is doubtful if the college received more than one-half, and the library thus donated, buildings were erected and furnished, and a career initiated which, in the Providence of Almighty God, has advanced this humble "school or college" to the front rank of educational institutions in America. In grateful remembrance of its benefactor, the name of "Harvard" was attached to the infant institution, and that of "Cambridge" to the little hamlet of "Newe Towne," in token of the famous English university from which he graduated. In the Phipps-street burial ground at Charlestown, an interesting relic of Colonial days, the curious may view a modest monument, upon which is inscribed the name of this foremost American benefactor of science, literature, and the arts. Many have and others may excel the sum of his dowry, but none can ever approach the mighty influence which has resulted from that timely, though humble, contribution to the majesty of education and the dignity of human attainments.

Col. Loammi Baldwin,

Loammi Baldwin Sheriff

Third in descent from Henry Baldwin, a subscriber to the "Town Orders" for Woburn in 1640. He was born in North Woburn, January 10, 1744, and died there October 10, 1807, aged sixty-three. From an enlisted man in 1775, he was rapidly promoted to the colonelcy of the Twenty-sixth Massachusetts Regiment, in the command of which he participated in the re-crossing of the Delaware and in the Battle of Trenton. He was in 1780 the first Sheriff of Middlesex County after the adoption of the constitution, and it was while he held this office that his duties called him to an obscure section of the little town of Wilmington, where his attention was attracted by an extraordinary gathering of woodpeckers upon an apple tree which stood by itself in an open field. On investigation, he discovered that the fruit of the tree was of an excellent, but unknown, variety. Gathering scions, he not only grafted them upon his own trees, but scattered them broadcast throughout the County of Middlesex. In this way was brought to public notice the "Baldwin" apple, unsurpassed in hardihood and productiveness, which has added millions to the farmers' revenue throughout the North, and after the expiration of a century of cultivation, stands without a peer as a winter fruit. The original tree was destroyed by a severe gale in 1815. It was a chance production without the intervention of man, and may be claimed as indigenous to the soil of ancient Middlesex and a veritable boon to the science of pomology.* He was Representative from 1778 to 1779 and from 1800 to 1805.

*In a letter written by Colonel Baldwin to Count Rumford November 4, 1799, is the following interesting reference, viz.: "In the cask of "fruit . . . there are half a dozen apples of the growth of my farm, "wrapped up in papers with the name of Baldwin apples written upon "them. . . . It would gratify me much to know the true English name "for them. However, I rather doubt whether the nice character of this "apple will answer exactly to any particular species of the English fruit, "as it is (as I believe) a spontaneous production of this country."



BENJAMIN THOMPSON, COUNT OF RUMFORD.
See page 31.



HON. LOAMMI BALDWIN, JR., "FATHER OF CIVIL ENGINEERING IN AMERICA."

In 1825. Designer of the Shaft Erected on Bunker Hill, and from 1827 to 1834 Builder of the Famous Dry Docks at the Charlestown and Norfolk Navy Yards. Born in Woburn, May 16, 1780. Died in Charlestown, June 30, 1838, aged 58.

Photographed by Baldwin Coolidge of Boston from a Painting by Chester Harding, the Property of Mrs. Wm. A. Griffiths of Quebec, Canada. See page 29.

Colonel Baldwin is also noted as a promoter and one of the principal constructors of the famous Middlesex canal (the first of its kind in America) which connected the Merrimack with the Charles. It was commenced in 1794 (Colonel Baldwin digging the first spadeful of turf September 10), and completed in 1803. October 3, 1859, the Supreme Court declared the franchise forfeited, the canal having been abandoned.

He was the friend, companion, and schoolmate of Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford, elsewhere mentioned, and was honored with a degree by Harvard. The Baldwin ancestral mansion is now standing, and is pronounced one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in New England. It is said to be the oldest house in town. Colonel Baldwin was the father of

Hon. Loammí Baldwin, Jr.,

L Baldwin

Born May 16, 1780, fitted for college at Westford Academy, and graduated at Harvard, class of 1800, in which was Washington Allston, the artist (a bosom friend), and Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw. He essayed the profession of law, but while studying with Hon. Timothy Bigelow, at Groton, was confronted with a new light, which changed his whole course in life, and gave to his country the services of one who has been proclaimed by competent authority as the "Father of Civil Engineering in America." The incident at Groton was as follows: A disastrous fire having occurred in the village, which might have been prevented by suitable fire appliances, the young student went to work and constructed with his own hands in 1802 a fire engine, which Dr. Samuel A. Green, the eminent historian of Groton, assures us was in perfect working order, and could throw a stream over any building in town eighty-seven years after its construction, and it is in active commission to-day, after the expiration of one hundred and two years of service.

Relinquishing the study of law, he devoted himself to mechanics and engineering. Two noted memorials to his skill in construction have stood the test of time, viz., the dry docks at the

navy yards in Charlestown and Norfolk, both of which in their class are unexcelled to this day. When consulted regarding the former, he was in doubt, and said to the Secretary of the Treasury: "What if I should fail?" "Then we will hang you," was the laconic reply. These docks were built between 1827 and 1834.

With Professor George Ticknor, Dr. Jacob Bigelow, Samuel Swett, and Washington Allston, he served upon a committee, of which he was chairman, and reported to the monument association on July 1, 1825, a specific plan for the building of an obelisk on Bunker Hill, which plan was adopted and the shaft erected. He was Treasurer of the town of Cambridge in 1816, Councillor in 1835, and Presidential Elector in 1836, casting his vote for Daniel Webster. He died in Charlestown June 30, 1838, aged fifty-eight.

Hon. Richard Sanger of Sherborn

Samuel Sanger
1775.

Sam: Porter
1734

Deserves more than passing notice, and so also does Rev. Samuel Porter, who was settled in that town as its third minister in 1734. Upon the farm of Captain Samuel, a son of Richard, originated the famous "Porter" apple, second to none of its class. Some accounts state that it was a product of the farm of Mr. Porter, who perhaps lived upon the property at that time, but all agree that the name came from him, and that both he and the captain distributed the scions from the tree both far and wide. As late as 1830, the stump of the original tree might still be seen upon the Sanger estate. Richard Sanger was elected a Representative to the Continental Congress, convened in Cambridge February 1, 1775. With Rev. Samuel Locke, president of Harvard from 1770 to 1773, and Jedediah Phipps, who manufactured saltpetre for the Continentals, he was of the committee of correspondence. His son, Captain Samuel, was an inn keeper, and is represented to have been a man of deep piety. He had the honor of entertaining General Washington while passing through Sherborn. Like the "Baldwin," the "Porter" apple was indigenous

to the soil of ancient Middlesex, although it originated at the opposite end of the county. As a favorite autumn fruit, it has maintained a commanding position for more than one hundred and fifty years, and honored the pomological standing of the town and county which gave it birth.

Sherborn is an ancient settlement, to which was called as the first minister in 1679 Daniel Gookin, Jr., a graduate of Harvard, and son of Major-General Daniel Gookin, Superintendent of the Praying Indians of the Apostle Eliot. The town was settled in 1652 and incorporated in 1674. It is said that the first cider-mill in the colony was established here, and it is also claimed that the most extensive one in America is in operation there to-day.

Among the many who have broadened the avenues of science, we may point to

Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford*

Rumford.
Feb. fifteenth 1797.

A Middlesex boy of the Colonial period, born March 26, 1753, in a Woburn farmhouse now standing. A descendant in the fifth generation from Lieutenant James Tompson, who came over with Winthrop in 1630, was a member of the first Board of

*Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford, Knight of the illustrious orders of the White Eagle and of St. Stanislaus, Lieutenant-General in the service of His Majesty the King of Bavaria.

Note.—The foregoing titles were attached to Rumford's will, wherein Harvard College was made his residuary legatee, and out of which was established the "Rumford Professorship." The signature is a fac-simile of the one attached to a gift of \$5,000 to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It has been truly said that to the country of his birth he bequeathed his fortune and his fame.—[Ed.]

Selectmen of Woburn in 1644, and died September 14, 1693. The mother of Benjamin was left a widow when her child was less than two years old. She was descended from William Simonds, an original settler, her father being Lieutenant James Simonds, who served with great bravery in the French and English wars.

James Simonds

Her boy had but brief opportunities for schooling, but at the age of fourteen, according to his own statement, he had calculated a solar eclipse within four seconds of accuracy. At the age of thirteen he had left school and was bound out as an apprentice, but used every available moment to improve his mind. In 1768 and 1769 he was teaching school in Wilmington, and in 1770, at the age of seventeen, he also taught at Rumford, N. H., now the city of Concord, where his friendship with Wentworth, the Royalist governor, caused him to become an object of suspicion to the patriots, by whom he was placed under arrest, but reluctantly released through the efforts of his bosom friend, Loammi Baldwin. Later on he was proclaimed as an enemy to his country, and his estate was sequestered. Protesting his innocence, and stung to the quick by these accusations, he hastily and perhaps unwisely left for England just prior to the Revolution, where his skilful address and superior abilities attracted the attention of George the Third, by whom he was knighted, and later on he became Minister of War and Grand Chamberlain to Charles Frederick, the Elector of Bavaria, and finally, as Count Rumford "of the Holy Roman Empire," a title conferred by his friend, the Elector, became renowned the world over as an enlightened philanthropist and a most eminent man of science. His death occurred at Auteuil, in France, August 21, 1814, aged sixty-two. While he was still living, the citizens of Munich erected a beautiful cenotaph, surmounted by a statue, commemorative of his distinguished services in behalf of the people of Bavaria. It is erected upon a spot which his genius had transformed from a repulsive waste to an earthly paradise, and bears upon its several sides these inscriptions:—

"Stay, Wanderer!
 "Rumford, the Friend of Mankind,
 "By Genius, Taste, and Love inspired,
 "Changed this once Desert Place
 "into what thou now beholdest.
 "To him
 "Who rooted out the greatest of
 "public Evils,
 "Idleness and Mendicity,
 "Relieved and instructed the Poor,
 "And founded many Institutions
 "For the Education of our Youth.
 "Go, Wanderer,
 "And strive to equal him
 "In Genius and Activity,
 "And us
 "In Gratitude."

A replica of this memorial stands in the grounds of the public library building at Woburn, the gift of a public-spirited citizen, and from it the likeness was taken which is introduced herewith.

Elías Howe,

Who established his claim as inventor of the sewing machine, while working in Lowell, in company with an inventive genius named Wackenfeldt, who was employed by the Merrimac corporation, perfected some of the important features of his machine, out of which he finally received in royalties not less than two million dollars, while his former assistant remained in humble circumstances.

Charles Goodyear,

Noted the world over as a pioneer in the modern process of treating India rubber, lived in Woburn while experimenting with the vulcanizing compound. Meeting with repeated failure, he became so poor that he had no money with which to decently bury a dead child, the corpse being carted to the grave in a job-

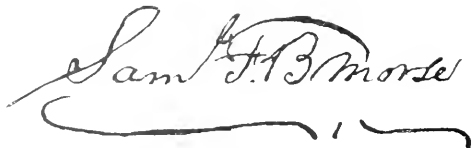
wagon. Both he and his family would have starved, had not a kind-hearted neighbor relieved his urgent necessities with a loan of three dollars when all others denounced and passed him by as a vain and delusive dreamer. His experiments were conducted in the old silk mill at East Woburn, and success finally came as the result of an accidental placing of a lump of his composition upon a hot stove, by which it was vulcanized, thus revealing the proper treatment. He had previously been unsuccessful in business, having failed in 1830, and during the next ten years was many times imprisoned for debt. Others profited by his inventions, and while he was decorated with high honors by the leading powers of Europe, he died comparatively poor.

Alvan Clark,



As early as 1826, was working ten hours a day for nine dollars a week, as an engraver in a mill at East Chelmsford, now Lowell. His marriage, from which a son was born in Lowell, was the first one recorded in that town. After concluding his contract, he painted portraits and miniatures until 1844, when, in company with his son, who had obtained some experience at Andover, he commenced the manufacture of telescopes in Cambridge, where they produced some of the most famous and powerful astronomical instruments of their day, rivaling the work of lense grinders in all ages.

Samuel F. B. Morse



Was another native of Middlesex, whose birthplace, the Edes Mansion, may still be seen on Main street, Charlestown. This building is an historic edifice, being the first house erected

after the wanton destruction of the town by the British during the battle of Bunker Hill. He was born April 27, 1791, and died April 2, 1872, aged eighty-one. His father was Rev. Jedediah Morse, a noted minister of the First Church in Charlestown, where he preached from 1789 to 1820. He was also distinguished as the "Father of American Geography." At the age of fourteen, Samuel entered Yale College. After his graduation, he became a pupil of Washington Allston, the greatest American artist of his period. One of Morse's creations, "The Dying Hercules," exhibited in 1813 at the Royal Academy, London, received the gold medal of the Adelphi Society of Arts. His success as a painter, while considerable, did not equal his ambitions, and he turned to electro-magnetism, a science in which he had previously experimented. The investigations of this remarkable genius finally produced the electric telegraph, thus harnessing for the purposes of man an element to be so widely developed in later years as to stamp him as the principal inventive benefactor of his age. It is seventy years since he entered the wilderness of electricity to develop and conserve its subtle power. Others have followed, but their brilliant achievements have failed to eclipse the marvelous triumphs of those early instruments, which, at the magical touch of the master's key, girdled the earth with human thought, and to this day are supreme in command of the telegraphic art.

Let us turn for patriotic inspiration to that never-to-be-forgotten genius of our own times, the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,"

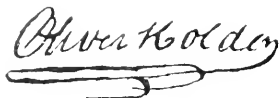
Oliver Wendell Holmes,

Oliver Wendell Holmes.

An illustrious son of Middlesex, born opposite the college green in the historic house of his sire, a famous minister of Cambridge. This mansion was selected by Artemus Ward, general-in-chief of the Continental army, as his headquarters immediately succeeding the battle of Lexington, and within its walls was planned the occupation of Bunker Hill. Therein was also written

that stirring and wonderful hymn dedicated to "Old Ironsides." In this house Washington frequently consulted with his generals and from it the lamented patriot, Dr. Joseph Warren, who, though he had been commissioned a Major-General, and was President of the Provincial Congress, then in session at Watertown, went out never to return, on the memorable morning of the Seventeenth of June, 1775, to take part in the eventful battle of Bunker Hill. Half sick and greatly fatigued, he stopped here in the hours of the early dawn for rest and refreshment. It is known that he spent the entire day and a portion of the evening attending to his Congressional duties, and it has been asserted that the balance of the night was passed in the practice of his profession administering in a case of child-birth—a striking example of the scriptural injunction, "in the midst of life we are in death."

Oliver Holden,

A handwritten signature of Oliver Holden in cursive script, with a decorative flourish underneath.

Of Charlestown, was another Middlesex County boy of the Colonial and Revolutionary period. Born in the little agricultural town of Shirley, September 18, 1765, he was for many years a carpenter and contractor, finally drifting through natural affinity into the business of music selling and publishing. In 1788, at the age of twenty-three, he went to Charlestown, where he supported himself for a period by hard work with the saw and plane, gifted in the spirit of harmony, but quite unknown to fame. In 1793 he published a collection of sacred music, under the title of "Union Harmony," in which appeared the music of "Coronation," with words ascribed to "Rev. Mr. Medley." This must have been a plagiarism, as the original hymn was written in 1780, by Rev. Edward Peronnet, an English non-conformist, who died in Canterbury in 1792, without having listened to the inspiring melody of his immortal song, as rendered by the genius of Oliver Holden. In the wide range of Christian harmony, no hymn of the century appeals more directly to the reverential emo-

tions of the human soul, or inspires loftier sentiments of devout adoration from those untold millions who "hail the power of Jesus' name and crown him Lord of all." The tune was first sung at the dedication of the Pearl-street Church in Charlestown, which stood nearly opposite the house where the composer passed away, September 4, 1844, aged seventy-nine. He was Worshipful Master of King Solomon's Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Charlestown, from 1797 to 1800.

Hon. Ephraim Wales Bull,

Of Concord, was born in Boston March 4, 1806. He was a gold-beater by trade, and conducted the business in Boston, until ill health induced him to settle in Concord about the year 1836. Here he was interested in horticulture, but continued to carry on his trade for several years with a few workmen. Observing a vine which had sprung up and grown to maturity on his land, evidently a seedling of the native Fox grape of New England, he found the fruit better than the wild grape, upon which he planted its seed as an experiment, obtaining in 1849 a grape which has revolutionized the viticulture of North America, forcing its way into every garden and vineyard of consequence in the temperate zone from the Atlantic to the Pacific, being hardy throughout the North. It was introduced commercially by Mr. Hovey, the distinguished horticulturist, in 1853. As soon as its merits became generally known, it was pronounced the most important type of the American grape, a position from which, after half a century of cultivation, it has not been dethroned. Indigenous to the soil of ancient Middlesex, it shares high honors with the Baldwin and Porter apples, contributing with them satisfaction to the consumer, while adding millions to the coffers of cultivators, not only in New England, but throughout the great West. The original vine is still preserved through a sucker from its roots. Beyond the fame attached to the production of a variety of universal merit, Mr. Bull received little of substantial value from his important discovery, others reaping most of the pecuniary rewards. In political matters Mr. Bull was very active as a Whig in the campaign of 1840, and as a "Native American" in 1856.

and 1857, being a member of the House of Representatives in the former year, and a Senator in 1857. He was a member of the State Board of Agriculture twelve years, Chairman of Selectmen, and a useful member of the school committee of Concord. Surviving to a great age, outliving his family, and being unable to work or to care for his estate, it faded away, and he died in deep poverty, September 30, 1895, aged ninety. The Concord grape is his lasting memorial.

James Abbott McNeill Whistler,

James A. Whistler 1851.

Late of London, the super-eminent artist, was a son of Middlesex, born in Lowell in 1834, and christened in "Old Saint Annes" church, as recorded on its baptismal register, November 9, 1834. His father was Major George Washington Whistler, a graduate of West Point, who resigned from the service, and went to Lowell in 1834, entering into the employ of the Locks and Canal Company as chief engineer in charge of their extensive works for the construction of locomotives and machinery for railroads and mills. While there he constructed for the Boston & Lowell railroad several engines fashioned after the one they had imported from London, which was built by Robert Stephenson, the first man in the world to successfully demonstrate the use of locomotives. Mr. Whistler was afterwards employed in various sections of the United States in great public and private enterprises, among them being the Western railroad from Springfield to Albany. In 1842 he was called to Russia by the Czar to build, as engineer in charge, the first railroad of importance in that empire. It connected St. Petersburg with Moscow. In the former city he was attacked with cholera during a severe epidemic, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. He died April 9, 1849, sincerely lamented, having successfully performed the great work with which he had been intrusted. His remains were sent to America and first buried in Boston, but finally removed to

Stonington, Conn. He was one of the most distinguished engineers which this country has ever produced. His son, James Abbott McNeill, was also educated at West Point, or, at least, spent three years there, having been discharged June 16, 1854, "for deficiency in chemistry," but standing at the head of his class in drawing. He drifted finally to Paris, following his artistic tastes, where he studied for a time under an eminent teacher, and was well known in the Latin quarter. In 1863, at the age of twenty-nine, he settled in London, remaining there during the balance of his career, devoting with tireless energy his remarkable talents in the development of original and striking conceptions in the realm of art. The products of his brush have been scattered far and wide, provoking interesting discussion among skilful and critical connoisseurs in many lands, while his etchings, if we are to accept the extravagant tributes of enthusiastic admirers, are unsurpassed even by the great masters. In his chosen profession he was undoubtedly a genius of magnitude, and it is possible that history may crown him as first of his period. It is a matter of historic interest to know that Major John Whistler, the grandfather of this erratic genius, was an Englishman who came to America in the British army, serving under Burgoyne at Saratoga, where he was captured. After being honorably discharged in England, he returned to America and settled for a time in Maryland. He afterwards enlisted in the army of the United States, and was severely wounded in an engagement with the Indians. He was promoted to captain and finally became a major by brevet. He died in the service of his adopted country, with a record of able and faithful duty courageously performed.

Lowell, April 18, 1904.

My Dear Sir: I am not able to give you the date of the birth of Mr. Whistler; but he was baptized in St. Anne's Church on November 9, 1834 (being the son of George Washington and Anna Matilda), by the late Rev. D. Edson, then the rector.

I think Mrs. J. B. Francis, 68 Mansur street, Lowell, can give you the birth date. My parish register does not.

Very truly yours,

A. St. John Chambre, Rector.

Mr. Levi S. Gould, Melrose.

Lowell, April 20, 1904.

Mr. Gould:—

Dear Sir: Your letter is just received, asking of James Whistler.

Mr. Whistler came to Lowell in 1834, and Mr. Francis, my husband, came with him then. I do not know of the birthday of James Whistler, but he was born on Worthen street, about the fifteenth of July, after the family came to Lowell. This is the best I can do for you.

Yours sincerely,

S. W. Francis.

The "Whistler" house was the home of Mrs. Francis for twenty-five years.—[Ed.]

May 16, 1904.

Mr. Levi S. Gould, 280 Main street, Melrose, Mass.:—

My Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of the thirteenth inst. inquiring about the date and place of birth of James Abbott McNeill Whistler, I beg to say that the records of the Military Academy show that he entered here on July 1, 1851, under the name of James A. (Abbott) Whistler; aged at that time, sixteen years and eleven months. He was appointed at large, and his place of residence was in Pomfret, Windham county, Connecticut. At the end of his second year's course, in 1853, he was absent with leave, on account of ill health. On June 16, 1854, he was discharged from the academy for deficiency in chemistry. At that time he stood at the head of his class in drawing and No. 39 in philosophy, the total number in the class being forty-two. He recorded his place of birth as Massachusetts.

Very respectfully,

F. W. Coe,

Captain, Artillery Corps, Adjutant.

Headquarters United States Military Academy,
West Point, New York.

October 10, 1904.

Mr. Levi S. Gould, 280 Main street, Melrose, Massachusetts:—

My Dear Sir: In reply to your request of the 5th inst. for a tracing of the signature of James Abbott McNeill Whistler, I beg to say that I have had made and enclose a photographic reproduction of his signature as it appears on the records of the Military Academy, July 1st, 1851. You will note that at the time he entered here the "McNeill" was not in his name.

Very respectfully,

F. W. Coe,

Captain, Artillery Corps, Adjutant.

The foregoing correspondence should settle the debated question as to the native place of the artist. — [Ed.]



HON. EPHRAIM WALES BULL OF CONCORD.

He Originated the "Concord" Grape Which was Introduced in 1849.

Born March 4, 1806. Died September 30, 1895.

See page 37.



REV. JOHN ELIOT, "APOSTLE OF THE INDIANS,"
From an Ancient Painting Discovered in a London Junk Shop. Born 1604, died 1690.

Rev. John Eliot,

John Eliot

Known throughout the Christian world as "The Apostle of the Indians of North America," is inseparably connected with the annals of ancient Middlesex. No history thereof can be considered complete which fails to deal with his sincere and earnest consecration to the civil advancement and the moral and spiritual uplifting of those semi-nomadic tribes which hunted, fished, and generally inhabited the confines of the Charles and Merrimack. The memory of this remarkable man has received a fitting tribute in this generation from all the people of the Commonwealth, in the heroic figure of the "Apostle" preaching to the natives, as depicted in the mural painting recently finished, on the walls of the Memorial Rotunda in the State House, by order of the General Court.

He was born at Nazing, County of Essex, in 1604, and educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, graduating therefrom in 1623. He came to America in the "Lion" (Captain William Pierce), arriving at Nantasket November 2, 1631. Among his fellow passengers were the wife and children of Governor John Winthrop. It was a tedious voyage of ten weeks. On a subsequent trip of the same vessel came his betrothed, gentle Anna Mountfort, to whom he was married in October, 1632, a few days after her arrival. In the same year he was appointed pastor of the church in Roxbury, holding this position during a period of fifty-eight years, until the day of his death, which occurred on the twentieth of May, 1690, aged eighty-six. In addition to his pastoral duties, he was devoted to the civilizing and Christianizing of the Indians of Middlesex County, among whom he persistently labored for more than half a century. He was a man of sincere charity, with an irresistible impulse to uplift and benefit humanity. It is said of him that the parish treasurer, knowing his weakness, on one occasion when paying his salary, tied it up in a handkerchief with many hard knots. On his way home he stopped to console a poor woman who was sick and destitute, and, wishing to help her with a portion of his salary, he endeav-

ored to untie the several knots which his cautious friend had so carefully tied, but, finding it impossible, left the bundle upon the table, saying that it was evidently the Lord's will that she should have the whole of it! As early as 1646, he had so far mastered the Mohican dialect, principally used by the Massachusetts tribes, as to be able, in their own tongue, to preach to the savages gathered within the confines of the present city of Newton, in a "warm, sheltered valley" called Nonantum, or "Noonatomen," signifying a place of rejoicing.

In this arduous and heroic work, often performed at the risk of his life, he was greatly assisted by a young Pequot captive who had been apprenticed, or practically enslaved to a Dorchester planter, in accordance with a custom too often resorted to by our English ancestors.

He also received much aid and comfort from Daniel Gookin, elsewhere mentioned as the "Indian historian," who was a lifelong friend, and by whom he was frequently accompanied. On one occasion he was threatened by an Indian with death for promulgating the gospel. His reply was: "I am about the work of the great God, and he is with me. Touch me if you dare." The first Bible printed in America in any tongue was published in Middlesex County, at Cambridge, in 1663. It was in the Indian language, and was translated by John Eliot, aided by one Job Nestuan, an aborigine who had become an excellent linguist. Faithful to the cause of the English, he was slain while fighting in their ranks against King Philip.

Marmaduke Johnson Samuel Green. 1652.

The printers of this now priceless treasure were Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson, both of whom were often mentioned in the earliest records of the town of Cambridge.

Samuel Green, if his family traditions are correct, came over with Winthrop, having as an intimate fellow passenger Hon. Thomas Dudley, afterwards chosen many times as Governor and Deputy Governor, with whom, according to the story (said to be of his own relating), he slept on shore in an empty cask until

better quarters could be provided. He was Town Clerk of Cambridge from 1694 to 1699, and Clerk of Writs from 1652 to the day of his death. He was a commissioned officer in the famous "train-band" more than sixty years, becoming its Captain in 1689 at the advanced age of seventy-five. After assuming the management of the "Day press," he was the only master printer in New England for nearly half a century.

Marmaduke Johnson came to America under a contract signed April 21, 1660, with the London "Society for propagating the gospel in New England," for the purpose of assisting in the printing of an Indian Bible under the direction of "Mr. John Eliot and Mr. Greene." The limit of time was three years, and the salary forty pounds per annum.

He was probably the first journeyman printer in America who had served a regular apprenticeship, as Day, who preceded him, being of another trade, probably took it up as a side issue, working at first in a clumsy way, and Mr. Green entered into it apparently as a business venture, on the advice of others. In 1662 he was indiscreet enough to captivate the affections of Mr. Green's daughter without first obtaining the sanction of her father. Such a proceeding in Puritan times was not only considered as a gross breach of social decorum, but positively scandalous in the eyes of the law. Johnson was forced into court and fined five pounds, which he refused to pay. Subsequently he was ordered to leave the country within six weeks and placed under bonds to do so. As the culprit was still under contract to complete another year of service in getting out the Bible, then well under way, he could not be spared from that important work, and so the General Court was appealed to and an act passed which enabled him to remain.

The lassie, who was the underlying cause of all this trouble, proved as fickle as many others of her sex, for she found another lover before poor Johnson was able to satisfy the court by official proof that his former wife was really deceased, not "diseased," as the wretched orthography of the recording officer had gravely set forth. After completing his contract, he finally married a worthy woman, and nothing further was heard of the case against him.

Jose Glover.

The press used in printing Mr. Eliot's Bible was the first one set up on the British North American continent. It was originally operated by Stephen [Steven] Day, who agreed to come to New England for the purpose in 1638. The press was brought over by Rev. Jose Glover, who sailed from England, accompanied by Day, in 1638. Mr. Glover died on the passage, and his widow had it set up. She subsequently married Rev. Henry Dunster, the first president of Harvard College, and thus the control of the press passed into his hands, and to a certain extent appears to have been used as an adjunct of that institution. The first product of this press was the "Freeman's Oath," which was struck off in March, 1639. In 1649 the plant seems to have been transferred to Mr. Green, who appears to have conducted it about half a century. Day, to whom must be ascribed the immortal honor of setting up and running off the first form in British North America, was described as a "locksmith" in the ancient records relating to his emigration. He lived in Cambridge until 1668, when he died, at the age of seventy-five, in poverty, thus establishing a precedent in the dissipation of worldly wealth quite generally followed by members of his craft to the present generation.

Steven Day 1657:

Henry Dunster

Mr. Eliot also edited an Indian grammar, and at other times published catechisms and primers for the use and instruction of his converts, as well as other works of general interest or of broader application. He was the first man in America to lift up his voice against the treatment and vassalage of negroes and the

selling of Indian captives into slavery, although it was generations before the seed thus sown blossomed and bore the fruits of general emancipation.

For their courageous defense of the "praying Indians," while popular clamor was at its height in 1675, both Daniel Gookin and Thomas Danforth (afterwards Deputy Governor), his steadfast associates, were posted and threatened with death by an unreasoning and infuriated populace. Mr. Eliot's age, then being upwards of seventy, and his profession, probably saved him from similar treatment.

Major-General Daniel Gookin

*Daniel Gookin Esq.
Affixant 1682*

Originally came with his father to Virginia in 1621 from County of Kent, England, afterwards residing in Roxbury about three years, there forming the acquaintanceship of Mr. Eliot. He moved to Cambridge in 1647, where he passed the remainder of his days. He was licenser of the printing press in 1663. His public services to ancient Middlesex, especially in the militia, were eminent, and his labor in behalf of the "praying Indians" may best be judged from the works of his pen as their faithful historian. He was Lieutenant of the train-band of Cambridge in 1637, Captain in 1638, and rose to the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Middlesex County militia during King Philip's war. He was also Major-General of all the forces of the colony in 1681.

His deep piety is shown in the following sentence, which concludes his instructions to Captain Sill and his company of Charlestown, Watertown, and Cambridge men, when they were sent forth against King Philip November 2, 1675: "So desiring the ever loving Lord God to accompany you and your company with his gracious conduct and presence, and that he will for Christ's sake appear in all the mounts of difficulty and cover all your heads in the day of battle, and deliver the bloodthirsty and

cruel enemy of God and his people into your hands, and make you executioners of his just indignation upon them and return you victorious unto us, I commit you and your company unto God." He was Selectman of Cambridge from 1660 to 1672; Representative from 1649 to 1651, being Speaker of the House during the latter year. He was an Assistant from 1652 to 1686, except in 1676, when he suffered defeat through his friendship for the "praying Indians," and his endeavors to protect them from a frenzied outburst of popular passion. He was also the confidential agent of Oliver Cromwell, and entrusted by him with several important commissions especially relating to colonization of the West Indian Islands. He was a friend of both Goffe and Whalley, the regicides, and was accused of a desire to protect them from arrest. He died March 19, 1686-7, aged seventy-five years.

Deputy Gov. Thomas Danforth

Was born in Framlingham, Suffolk, England, in 1622, and came to Cambridge in 1634, where he became one of the wealthiest and most distinguished men of Middlesex. That he was a man of remarkable character, wonderful energy, and superior abilities may be inferred from the broad range of his public services during a career of more than fifty years, all of which is related in detail under the caption of "Clerks of Court," he having been the first in the line.

His death occurred November 5, 1699, aged seventy-seven. He left no descendants in the male line.

There being "nothing new under the sun," it is fair to suppose that the "Ku Klux Klan" of the South must have been modelled from "Ye new society A. B. C. D." of Eliot's day. Listen to their warning: "Boston, February 28, 1675. Reader, thou art desired not to suppress this paper, but to promote its designe, which is to certify (those traytors to their King and country) Guggins and Danforth, that some generous spirits have owed them distraction, as Christians wee warne them to prepare for death, for though they will deservedly dye, yet we wish the health of their souls. By ye newe society, A. B. C. D."

One of these warning hand bills is still in existence. When we turn to the record of the life work of both "Guggins and Danforth," it is needless to add that threats were of no avail against such men except to defeat Mr. Gookin's election as Assistant in 1676, a single instance, to be triumphantly vindicated at the next election, and to temporarily embarrass Mr. Danforth in a similar way. They had no fear of man, "the eternal God being their refuge."

In opposition to the common opinions and practices of the leading men of his day, Mr. Eliot was professedly a teetotaler, and without doubt the first apostle of temperance in America.

Using nothing but water himself, he said of wine: "It is a noble, generous liquor, and we should be humbly thankful for it; but, as I remember, water was made before it."

Through his efforts, the General Court in 1651 was induced to grant 6,000 acres to the "praying Indians," at that time gathered at a place in Middlesex called Natick, signifying in their language "a place of hills." It mainly occupied the territory of the present town retaining that name. It is distinguished as being the first town government in North America, officered and solely managed for a term of years by the aborigines, and it is worthy of note that during many years after the whites had obtained the ascendancy, the town records were kept in both the English and Mohican dialects. Natick was an Indian town from 1651 to 1762, a period of one hundred and eleven years. In 1826 the Natick Indians were extinct. Mr. Eliot not only framed a civil and judicial form, based on Mosaic law, for the government of this settlement, but spent much of his time among them. Under his spiritual advice and direction, many of these Indians developed into pious and devout teachers of the word of God, spreading far and wide the glad tidings of the gospel of Jesus Christ, until several similar communities were established and ministered to within the limits of Middlesex County. Most of them had unpronounceable, but appropriate, Indian names, and were located at places now known as Marlboro, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Concord, and Ashland, with two settlements in Lowell, one known as Wamesit, at the junction of the Concord and Merrimack, at one time a portion of Tewksbury, and the

other at Pawtucket Falls, on the Merrimack, at that time within the territory of Dracut. In 1653 Mr. Eliot remained several days with the "Pawtuckets," sometimes called the "Wamesits," administering to their temporal as well as spiritual needs. The "Eliot" Memorial Church in Lowell is said to occupy the identical spot whereon he frequently preached.

Under his watchful care and parental guidance, they grew in grace and prospered, until their numbers in the "praying bands" had increased, in the aggregate, to about eleven hundred souls, and they had built some churches. But alas! there came a time when the poor savage learned to his everlasting sorrow that his designation as a "praying Indian" was to be used by unscrupulous and designing men only as a byword and reproach, and that the holy ways of the meek and sanctified Eliot were in no sense the ways of the world. Notwithstanding the fact that these "praying Indians" were often called upon by the authorities to act with the settlers against their own people during the bloody conflicts of King Philip's war, and many freely offered their lives in defense of English hearthstones, yet, through the overpowering avarice of some and the hatred and treachery of others, scores were driven out of their habitations and away from valuable lands coveted by their persecutors, to perish in the wilderness through exposure, hunger, and disease, while others, deprived of their most sacred rights by our Puritan ancestors, were sold into slavery, thrown into prison on the slightest pretext, or slaughtered in whole families without provocation. Occasionally some one was brought to the bar of justice and suitably punished for such unholy atrocities, but the cases were rare, although it is recorded by Daniel Gookin, heretofore mentioned as a bosom friend of Mr. Eliot, and who at that time was Superintendent of all "submissive Indians," in an "historical account of the doings and sufferings of the Christian Indians in New England in 1675-6 and 7," that, on petition of "certain Christian Indians," one Daniel Hoare, a son of John Hoare, of Concord, ancestor of the present illustrious family of that name, was convicted in 1676 and sentenced to death, with three others, for the murder of three of the women and three of the children of the "praying Indians." Hoare was subsequently pardoned, but two of his associates in

crime, Daniel and Stephen Goble, were executed. John Hoare, father of Daniel, was a consistent friend of the "submissive" Indians. He was as potent, intellectually, in his day as are his descendants in ours, if we may judge of his merits from such fragmentary evidence as exists in the history of Colonial times.

It has been estimated that the Indian tribes hereabouts in New England numbered nearly 3,000 souls, of whom about one-quarter had been influenced in the direction of Christianity by the efforts of Mr. Eliot. Had this large number given their fighting braves to the hostile tribes who were continually using their powers in this direction, it is doubtful if the whites could have escaped utter annihilation. Notwithstanding their atrocious treatment, many of these faithful Indians, true to the instincts of savage warfare, donned the moccasin, and in the habiliments of the scout stealthily tracked the warriors of King Philip, dealing death and destruction wherever they went. In this way alone, according to the records of General Gookin, more than 400 enemies of the colonists were slain by men of their own blood. An heroic example of fidelity, in contrast to acts of perfidy and treachery by the colonists.

In the words of the charter brought over by John Winthrop, these trusting children were to be guided by the settlers "to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Savior of mankind." Let us hope that the persecutions they were forced to submit to at the hands of their white brethren, whose duty it was to teach them in the Christian graces, wrought out a more enduring and peaceful rest in the Father's kingdom than was accorded by their earthly guardians. This foul blot on the page of colonial history has repeated itself again and again under the civilization of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the treatment meted out in the South to our black allies of the Civil War.

Until the present generation shall purge itself, it may not raise the hand in horror at the fate which fell to the lot of so many of the trusting disciples of John Eliot. After the death of the apostle, and with well nigh every man's hand against them, one settlement after another gave way to the advancing tide of oppression, until the "praying Indians" of Eliot's time became

but a memory of by-gone days, to be referred to only as an incident in Colonial history.

As we consider the greatness and power of the Middlesex of to-day, may we never fail to do homage to the memory of those brave men and heroic women who came across the stormy seas and commenced that first settlement at the junction of the Charles and Mystic, and who finally, through their descendants, wrested a howling wilderness from wild beasts and savage foes, and, planting the church and schoolhouse side by side, reared a yeomanry so imbued with Christian courage, and so seasoned with unselfish, intelligent patriotism, as to make the glorious record of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill but natural incidents leading up to the surrender of Yorktown, and the independence of this republic. Hastily summoned by the warning voice of that peerless horseman in the cause of liberty, Paul Revere, men of Middlesex shed the first blood of the Revolution, offering their lives as willing sacrifices upon the altar of their country; an act destined, in the Providence of Almighty God, to awake earth's slumbering millions and shake the firmament with their battle cries of freedom.

“By the rude bridge which arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here first the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.”

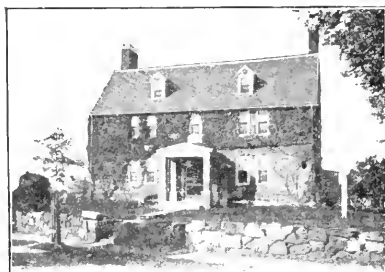
Foremost in the fierce and relentless wars of the Colonial period; first in the opening scenes of the Revolution; first on the field with her gallant Sixth at the dawn of the great Rebellion; equipped again and sleeping on their arms, they were ready for the first signal of the Spanish war; there her record stands in the teeming history of the past, pre-eminent in defense of the liberties of man and in all the duties of citizenship, as well as in commerce, in manufactures, and in all the higher avenues of peace. Within her borders are the classic shades of Harvard, and the philosopher's retreat at Concord. Along her northern boundaries, skirting the limits of the granite hills of New Hampshire, her farmhouses nestle under the shadows of grand, silent, and



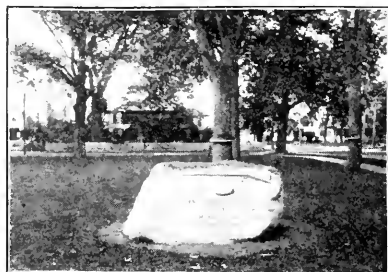
THE MINUTE MAN.



OLD NORTH BRIDGE, CONCORD.
Scene of the Fight.



GOV. CRADOCK HOUSE, MEDFORD.
Built in 1634. Probably the oldest
house in the United States.



LEXINGTON COMMON.



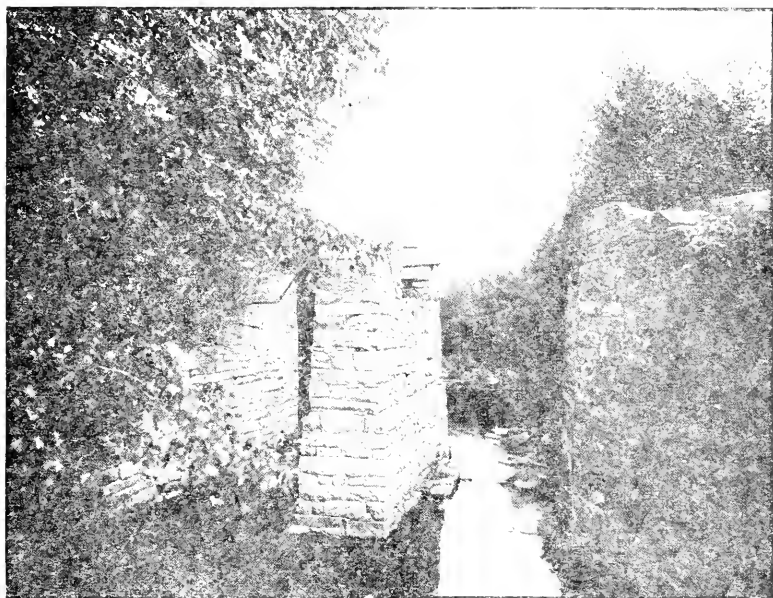
WAYSIDE INN, SUDBURY.

majestic Monadnock, while her eastern shores are gently bathed by the tides of the sea, or lashed into foam by billows from the Atlantic. On the banks of the Mystic, within the present confines of Somerville, and near the mansion of Governor John Winthrop, was constructed and given to the waters of Massachusetts Bay in 1631, on a day ever to be remembered in the later annals of American history, the Fourth of July, a bark of thirty tons, called the "Blessing of the Bay," being the second vessel launched in America, the Virginia, built at Popham, being undoubtedly the first, and it was her forests, resounding to the axe of the sturdy yeoman, which yielded the gnarled and twisted oak, hewn and fashioned in her shipyards into a thousand sail, which in the arts of peace have parted the waves of every sea under the sun, and in the smoke of conflict have carried the Stars and Stripes to glorious victory, or to honorable defeat. It is also an inspiration in patriotism to know that the white oak timber from which was constructed the ribs and keel of "Old Ironsides," the "Eagle of the Sea," which never lowered her "tattered ensign" to any foe, was cut from the farm of Captain Unite Cox in North Malden, now the city of Melrose, and by him hauled with great teams of oxen to the shipyard at Constitution wharf in Boston. Captain Cox was a minute man who marched at the Lexington alarm, and rendered other valuable service during the Revolution. He married Hannah Sprague, a lineal descendant of Ralph, one of the three brothers who settled the territory of Middlesex County, and the forest from which this timber came was identical with the land mentioned in the "Book of Possessions" as belonging to him in 1638 at "Pond Fielde." Thus the framework of this noble and historic ship was preserved and guarded by the best blood of ancient Middlesex, and finally applied to a providential career of heroic service. It is the priceless record of this peerless county, that in every crisis of the nation's history men of Middlesex have sprung to arms and freely shed their blood to defend that legacy of liberty bequeathed by those who fell at Lexington and Concord, or to extend its protecting aegis to souls bowed down in lands beyond the seas.

By the infinite wisdom of Almighty God, such men as the Spragues, Winthrop, Dudley, Danforth, Gookin, Green, and

others of their company were directed to these rugged and inhospitable shores to erect in Ancient Middlesex, through the utmost extremity of faith and of long-suffering, a Commonwealth, wherein the life that led to rigid purity in thought and action was the essential element. Should we wonder, then, that they adopted as the groundwork of civil policy that "none should be admitted to the freedom of the body politick but such as were church members"? This declaration, in the light of the twentieth century, is freely denounced as narrow-minded and bigoted. Let us remember, however, that they were a deeply religious, quaint, and peculiar people, austere and inflexible in many ways, as shown in the severity which characterized their punishment of crime, it being a matter of history that as late as the eighteenth day of September, 1755, by order of the authorities, a woman was burned at the stake in public on the Town Common in Cambridge, in punishment of an atrocious crime, while her paramour was gibbeted within a few yards of the wretched creature. A century earlier, through uncouth behavior and intemperate speech, the Quakers invited, and possibly merited, a portion of the punishment which they received, some of their women even glorifying in the shame and pain of the lash applied by order of the court to the "naked body" as they were passed along from constable to constable through Cambridge, Watertown, and Dedham, beyond the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. (See court records of Middlesex County, October 6, 1663, Elizabeth Howton.) Notwithstanding all this, they were neither visionary nor fanatical, but law-abiding, logical, courageous, honest, and faithful. The harshness of their methods in the administration of corporal punishment they justified under the Mosaic law, wherein "the way of the transgressor is hard." They endeavored to pattern their humble lives after the example of Him who died on Calvary, and the foundations of their law rested upon the divine message which thundered from Sinai. John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States, once said: "I would rather have one drop of Puritan blood in my veins than all the blood that ever flowed in the veins of kings and princes." As time moves on, the sublime work of these pious and undaunted souls shines forth in ever-increasing lustre, while the

name of "Puritan," originally applied to dissenters from the established church as a term of scornful derision, is eagerly adopted by such as can trace their lineage back to the early fathers, as the proudest symbol which can emblazon the family escutcheon. "Those only deserve to be remembered by posterity who treasure up the history of their ancestors."



RUINS OF THE VIADUCT OVER SILASHELEX RIVER. MIDDLESEX CANAL, 1795.

It is by the right of ancient settlement that Middlesex County may, if in no other way, lay claim to a date preceding its legal act of incorporation.

At the date of its incorporation, 1643, Middlesex County contained Charlestown, Cambridge, Watertown, Sudbury, Concord, Woburn, Medford, and Linn Village, afterwards Reading. Until February 20, 1819, the administration of county affairs was vested in the Circuit Court of Common Pleas; after that, and until March 1, 1826, in the hands of a Chief Justice and two associates of the Court of Sessions.

COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

Under the Act of March 4, 1826, the Governor appointed five persons as "Commissioners of Highways" for the term of five years, viz.: Caleb Butler, of Groton, Chairman; Augustus Tower, of Stow; Abner Wheeler, of Framingham; Benjamin F. Varnum, of Dracut (resigned in 1831 to accept the office of Sheriff); David Townsend, of Waltham.

On the twenty-sixth of February, 1828, this act was changed to four persons, to be appointed by the Governor as "County Commissioners." This law continued until April 8, 1835, when it was changed so as to elect three commissioners and two specials. March 11, 1854, the present law was passed to elect one commissioner each year, to serve three years. Under these various acts, covering a period of seventy-nine years, the following twenty-six gentlemen have served as commissioners, viz.:—

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, 1826 TO JANUARY 1st, 1905.

(Commissioners of Highways from 1826 to 1828.)

- Hon. Caleb Butler, Groton, 1826 to 1841.
 Hon. Augustus Tower, Stow, 1826 to 1835.
 Hon. Abner Wheeler, Framingham, 1826 to 1828, and from 1831 to 1841.
 Hon. Benjamin F. Varnum, Dracut, 1826 to 1831. Resigned in 1831.
 Hon. David Townsend, Waltham, 1826 to 1837. Died in office.
 Hon. Timothy Fletcher, Charlestown, 1837 to 1846. Resigned.
 Hon. Leonard M. Parker, Shirley, 1841 to 1844.
 Hon. Seth Davis, Newton, 1841 to 1844.
 Hon. Josiah Adams, Framingham, 1844 to 1850.
 Hon. Josiah B. French, Lowell, 1844 to 1847.
 Hon. Ebenezer Barker, Charlestown, 1846 to 1853.
 Hon. Joshua Swan, Lowell, 1847 to 1850.
 Hon. Daniel S. Richardson, Lowell, 1850 to 1856.
 Hon. Leonard Huntress, Tewksbury, 1850 to 1876.
 Hon. John K. Going, Shirley, 1853 to 1860.
 Hon. Paul H. Sweetser, South Reading, 1856 to 1862.
 Hon. Edward J. Collins, Newton, 1860 to 1872.
 Hon. Joseph H. Waitt, Malden, 1862 to 1874.
 Hon. Harrison Harwood, Natick, 1872 to 1882. Died in office.
 Hon. Daniel G. Walton, Wakefield, 1874 to 1886.
 Hon. J. Henry Read, Westford, 1876 to 1897.
 Hon. William S. Frost, Marlboro, 1882 to 1893.
 Hon. Alphonso M. Lunt, Cambridge, 1886 to 1889.
 Hon. Samuel O. Upham, Waltham, 1889 to date.
 Hon. Francis Bigelow, Natick, 1893 to date.
 Hon. Levi S. Gould, Melrose, 1897 to date.

Chairmen and Time of Service.

- Hon. Caleb Butler, 1826 to 1841, fifteen years.
 Hon. Leonard M. Parker, September, 1841, to September, 1844, three years.
 Hon. Josiah Adams, September, 1844, to September, 1850, six years.



HON. CALEB BUTLER, OF GROTON,
County Commissioner, 1826-1841. Chairman, 1826-1841.

Hon. Daniel S. Richardson, September, 1850, to September, 1853, and January, 1855, to January, 1856, four years.

Hon. Leonard Huntress, September, 1853, to January, 1855, January, 1856, to January, 1860, and January, 1862, to January, 1876, twenty years.

Hon. Paul H. Sweetser, 1860 and 1861, two years.

Hon. Harrison Harwood, January, 1876, to August 27, 1882, six years. Deceased.

Hon. Daniel G. Walton, September, 1882, to January, 1886, four years.

Hon. J. Henry Read, January, 1886, to January, 1897, eleven years.

Hon. Levi S. Gould, January, 1897, to date.

The first meeting of the "Commissioners of Highways of Middlesex County" appears to have been holden at "Samuel Kendall's" tavern in Cambridge, August 1, 1826, to consider a petition for a new highway from "Alewife brook in Cambridge to the bridge over Miller's river in Charlestown."

The first meeting of the "Board of County Commissioners," as constituted under the Act of February 26, 1828, was held at Concord on the second Tuesday, being the thirteenth day of May, 1828, with Hon. Caleb Butler as Chairman. Augustus Tower, Benjamin F. Varnum, and David Townsend, being the remainder of the board, were also in attendance.

Hon. Caleb Butler,
Chairman, 1826 to 1841, Inclusive.



Son of Caleb and Rebekah (Frost) Butler. Born in Pelham, N. H., September 13, 1776, and died in Groton, Mass., October 7, 1854, aged seventy-eight. The early struggles of Mr. Butler, and the success which crowned an honorable career, are an object lesson to the youth of New England. It should encourage them to persistent effort in the attainment of useful knowledge against apparently insurmountable obstacles. According to the custom

of pious families in those days, his parents directed his youthful mind to the study of the Scriptures. In their lofty teachings his faith was firmly grounded, and from their minutest precepts he never knowingly deviated. In after life, a Greek Testament was a constant companion for familiar reference, and on the day of his death it was found lying by his side, with the book-mark placed at the last chapter of Revelations. His early schooling was to be obtained only by traveling a long distance from the farm, at such times as he could be spared from pressing duties at home, and was necessarily intermittent. His father was a hard-working farmer in quite moderate circumstances, who needed the help of his boy, and was unable to furnish financial aid to satisfy his constant thirst for knowledge. His only preparation for college consisted in attending the Academy of Daniel Hardy in Pelham less than a year. This was in 1794, when eighteen years of age. By working hard, and teaching some, all the while studying Greek and Latin, he finally accumulated sufficient funds to enter Dartmouth, from which he graduated in 1800, delivering the salutatory oration in Latin, which was the highest honor conferred by the faculty at that time. In his Junior year he joined the college society of "Social Friends," and wrote a drama in three acts, entitled "Triumph of Infidelity Over Superstition." It was successfully performed August 26, 1799, by members of the society, Mr. Butler assuming the role of the Cardinal. Remaining in Hanover a year as tutor of an Indian school attached to the college, he was next employed by Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, to correct the proofs of a Greek grammar he was publishing. He was appointed preceptor of Groton, now Lawrence, Academy in 1802. This position was congenial to his tastes and talent, and he soon advanced to the highest rank among the instructors of his period, serving until 1815, when he abandoned the profession of teaching and studied law with Hon. Luther Lawrence, of Groton. He had no desire for court practice, but confined his legal employment principally to office work. He also became famous as a surveyor, and was relied upon in all difficult problems in those lines. His familiarity with the highways of Middlesex, upon the construction and improvement of which he was an authority, undoubtedly contributed to his selec-

tion by the Governor, in 1826, as Chairman of the first Board of Highway Commissioners of this county.

He was much interested in the Masonic fraternity, and upheld the faith during the dark days of the anti-Masonic crusade. He held the position of W. M. of Saint Paul's Lodge, Groton, in 1807, and was at one time High Priest of St. John's R. A. Chapter. He delivered many Masonic orations from 1811 to 1816, and was present with the fraternity when Lafayette laid the corner-stone of Bunker Hill Monument with Masonic ceremonies June 17, 1825, and also at its completion, June 17, 1843. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., in 1841-1842, having previously served as Senior Grand Warden in 1818-19, and as Deputy Grand Master from 1824 to 1826. A lodge in Ayer bears his name. One of his favorite studies was astronomy, and it was his delight on pleasant evenings to point out to those interested the wonders of the starry heavens. He also became quite an authority in forecasting the seasons, especially the weather during haying, and was consulted by the farmers of his section with wondering faith in his predictions.

He wrote a fine history of the town of Groton. It is a standard work, the preface to which is scholarly and instructive. In politics he was first a Federalist, but afterwards a Whig. He was Town Clerk of Groton, 1815 to 1817, and from 1823 to 1831; Trustee of Lawrence Academy from 1807 to 1836; elected to the Legislature in 1829, but declined to serve; Postmaster for twenty years; Chairman of the Selectmen; appointed by the Governor as Chairman of the first Board of County Commissioners.* He was widely known and respected for his sterling integrity, moral independence, courage, simplicity, and modesty. He was famous, also, as a critical scholar, and for the energy and wealth of his intellect. It has been truly said of him that if his ambition

*The venerable ex-Governor George S. Boutwell, a contemporary, in his recently-published "Sixty Years of Public Life," says that the politics of Mr. Butler, being a Whig, caused him to lose both the office of "Postmaster and that of County Commissioner." It is related of the latter that when the news came that his fellow-townsmen, Mr. Boutwell (a Democrat), was elected Governor in 1851 as a "fusionist," he exclaimed, "God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!" Political animosities were strong in those days.—[Ed.]



HON. AUGUSTUS TOWER, OF STOW.
County Commissioner, 1826-1835.

had equalled his modesty, he would have become eminent. His mental qualities were not clouded at the approach of age, but remained bright and clear to the last. He delighted in literature and the classics as of old, and during his last years read the works of Virgil and Horace in the original. One of the most interesting events of his long and honorable career occurred at the jubilee of Lawrence Academy July 12, 1854, a few weeks before his death. At this celebration there was assembled a notable gathering. Among others of his pupils who were present were Hon. Abbott Lawrence, formerly Ambassador to England, Hon. Amos Kendall, formerly Postmaster-General, Hon. Joel Parker, LL.D., Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D. D., Rev. James Walker, D. D., President of Harvard College, and Hon. John P. Bigelow. Hon. Abbott Lawrence, in a beautiful tribute, said: "He was my only preceptor, and I thank God that he is able to be with us to-day at the age of seventy-eight. A sweet aroma hangs about his name, in his love of truth and justice, in his integrity of character in all relations of life, which I doubt not will endure long after he and all of us shall have passed away."

Such was the character and such the abilities of the first Chairman of the County Commissioners of Middlesex County. In intellectual attainments, it is no disparagement to others to say that his equal has never yet appeared upon the board.

Hon. Augustus Tower.

Augustus Tower

Son of Benjamin and Anna (Vose) Tower. Born in Sudbury June 25, 1767, died in Stow on Independence Day, 1838, aged seventy-one. He was a descendant in the sixth generation from John and Margaret (Ibrook) Tower, who came from England, and were inhabitants of Hingham as early as 1637. His father, Benjamin Tower, was a soldier in the old French war, serving in Captain Thomas Williams' company in 1756; in Captain Josiah Richardson's company in 1757, and in Captain Nicholas Dakin's company in 1758; he was also a soldier in the



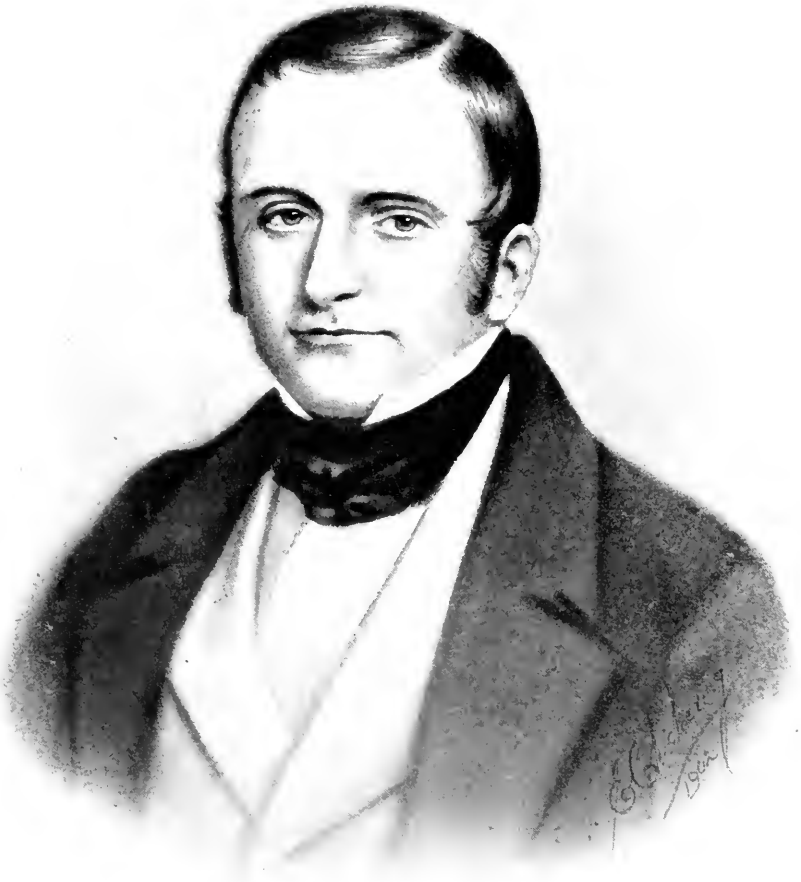
HON. ABNER WHEELER, OF FRAMINGHAM.
County Commissioner, 1826-1828, and 1831-1841.

War of the Revolution, and was granted a pension March 4, 1789. When the battle of Lexington occurred, the subject of this sketch, Augustus, was not quite eight years of age. Emulating the patriotism and courage of his father, he enlisted in March, 1782, for three years in Captain Coburn's company attached to the Seventh Massachusetts regiment, Colonel John Brooks, and served at Fishkill, Newburgh, West Point, and at New York after its evacuation by the British. At the time of his enlistment, this valiant and youthful patriot was less than fifteen years of age. For service in the War of the Revolution, he was granted a pension January 5, 1833, which was continued to his widow, Polly (Leathe) Tower, after his death. As early as 1799, he was a Selectman and Assessor of the town of Stow, to which offices he was repeatedly chosen. He was Town Clerk and Town Treasurer uninterruptedly from 1804 until 1826, when his son, Charles Tower, succeeded him. He was a member of the House of Representatives in 1809-10-11-12-13-14-15-19-20-21-22-23, and 1826, and a Presidential Elector in 1824. In 1826 he was appointed by the Governor as one of the first Board of Highway Commissioners for Middlesex County. In 1828 he was appointed a member of the first Board of County Commissioners of Middlesex County, upon which he served until 1835, and was a magistrate for the county during seven years. He was a carpenter by trade, and had a small farm. The present town clerk of Stow has in his possession a map of Stow which was made by Mr. Tower in 1830, showing that he possessed talent and skill as a surveyor, in addition to other accomplishments. As a soldier and civilian, old Middlesex can produce no better example of the typical yeoman than Augustus Tower.

Hon. Abner Wheeler.



Son of Abner and Elizabeth (Brooks-Hunt) Wheeler. Born in Lincoln, 1772, died in Framingham October 11, 1843, aged seventy-one. He was a carpenter by trade, and for quite a long time was a tavern keeper in Framingham Centre. He was a



HON. BENJAMIN F. VARNUM, OF DRACUT,
County Commissioner, 1826-1831. Resigned.

very active and energetic business man, and was one of the proprietors of the Boston and Worcester turnpike. He also assisted in the building of the Saxonville mills, in which he was interested at the time of his death. He was a Representative to the General Court in 1814, and Selectman from 1809 to 1816. He was one of the first board of County Commissioners of Middlesex County, serving from 1826 to 1828 as a Commissioner of Highways, and from 1831 to 1842 as a County Commissioner.

Hon. Benjamin Franklin Varnum,
Resigned in 1831 to accept position of High Sheriff.

B. F. Varnum

Born in Dracut in 1795, died January 11, 1841, aged forty-six. Son of the distinguished Revolutionary patriot and statesman, Major-General Joseph Bradley Varnum, who was speaker of the lower house of Congress, 1807 to 1811, and President pro tem of the United States Senate, 1813. He was also commissioned, February 12, 1794, by Lieutenant-Governor Samuel Adams as High Sheriff of Middlesex County, but declined the office. The subject of this sketch was a Representative to the General Court in 1824 to 1825, and a Senator from Middlesex County in 1826-1827-1828-1829 and 1830. One of the first board of Highway Commissioners, and one of the first board of County Commissioners until 1831, when he resigned to accept the position of High Sheriff of Middlesex County, which position he honored during two terms of five years each, dying in office at the early age of forty-six, and at the very threshold of a career which promised to equal that of his illustrious father. He had announced to his friends a purpose to retire from the shrievalty at the end of his term to seek higher honors for which his discretion, ability, and popularity eminently fitted him. For his careful and discreet management of the duties of his office during the Ursuline Convent disturbances, he received the thanks of the Governor of the Commonwealth. He was courteous and affable, and a splendid specimen of manly grace. His death was universally regretted.



HON. DAVID TOWNSEND, OF WALTHAM,
County Commissioner, 1826-1837. Died in office.

Col. David Townsend, Jr.,
Died in Office.

David Townsend

Son of Cornet David and Sarah (Jennison) Townsend. Born in Waltham June 2, 1777, died there January 5, 1837, aged sixty. After passing through the district schools of his native town, he learned the trade of a cabinet-maker, at which he worked for a time in Boston, where he became interested in military matters, and, on returning to Waltham, was appointed as Colonel of the First regiment, Massachusetts militia. He was a Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Board of Selectmen eleven years between 1802 and 1818. His father, Cornet David, bought the "Bird" tavern, which his son carried on for many years. If ability and popularity are to be gauged by extended service in the Legislature, then Colonel Townsend must have been the personification of virtue, both social and political, for the people of Waltham honored him by elections to the House of Representatives in 1809-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-20-24-26-27 and 1831, making a total of fourteen years. He also served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820. It will be seen that he commenced his career in the Legislature at the same time as did his afterward associate upon the board of County Commissioners, Hon. Augustus Tower, of Stow, who served therein thirteen years, being one year less than Colonel Townsend. As the genial colonel was a tavern keeper, however, it is fair to assume that the character of his public entertainment for "man and beast" might account for his finishing a lap ahead of his more rustic associate. He was appointed by the Governor upon the first board of Highway Commissioners in 1826, and upon the first board of County Commissioners in 1828, serving until his death in 1837, which occurred while yet in office, and was deeply regretted by the entire community.



HON. TIMOTHY FLETCHER, OF CHARLESTOWN.
County Commissioner, 1837-1846. Resigned.

Hon. Timothy Fletcher.



Born in Groton November 28, 1795, died in Charlestown August 28, 1818, aged eighty-three. Son of Peletiah and Sally (Woodward) Fletcher. In early life he became a resident of Charlestown, where he passed the remainder of a lengthy, active, and honorable career. At different times he was engaged in the lumber and leather business, from which he retired many years before his death. In politics he was a lifelong Democrat, and was honored by his fellow citizens with many offices of trust and responsibility. He was a Selectman of the town, and, after Charlestown became a city, served as an alderman in 1848 and 1849. He was a member of the House of Representatives in 1834-35-36-37-11 and 1842. He was a County Commissioner from 1837 to 1846, having been first elected to succeed Hon. David Townsend, deceased. He was chosen chairman of the board in 1841, but declined to serve. A careful examination fails to reveal any minutes of his resignation upon the Commissioners' records, but in 1846, before the expiration of his term of office, it is found that Hon. Ebenezer Barker, also of Charlestown, was apparently elected as his successor, and so it is fair to assume that he must have resigned. A firm believer in the doctrine of "free trade and sailors' rights," he enlisted and served in the War of 1812. Surviving until beyond the limit of four score years, he was permitted to see the flag for which he fought proudly floating at the masthead of American craft from sea to sea, and from the islands to the ends of the earth.



HON. LEONARD M. PARKER, OF SHIRLEY.
County Commissioner, 1841-1844. Chairman, 1841-1844.

Hon. Leonard Moody Parker,
Chairman September, 1841, to September, 1844.



Born in Shirley January 9, 1789, died there August 25, 1854, aged sixty-five. Son of James and Sarah (Dickerson) Parker. His father was a minuteman, and marched in Captain Haskell's Shirley company at the Lexington alarm April 19, 1775. James Parker was a descendant in the fifth generation from Captain James Parker, an original proprietor of Groton, who was much distinguished in early Colonial times. At fourteen years of age, Leonard Moody commenced his preparation for college under the instruction of Hon. Caleb Butler, at that time preceptor of Groton Academy. It is a singular fact that he afterwards succeeded this distinguished gentleman and scholar as the second chairman of the Middlesex County Commissioners, Mr. Butler being the first. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1808, at the age of nineteen, selecting the practice of law as his profession, reading two years with Hon. Abijah Bigelow, M. C., of Leominster, and one year with Hon. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, afterwards Governor, whose daughter he subsequently married. In 1811 he settled in Charlestown, and at once assumed a prominent position at the bar, politically, and otherwise. He was one of the counsel for "Mike Martin," the noted highwayman, who was hanged for robbing Major Bray and wife on the Medford turnpike; this was one of his earliest cases. On the outbreak of the War of 1812, he was appointed Judge Advocate of Military District No. 1, and held that position until peace was concluded. In politics, he was first a Jeffersonian Republican, afterwards a Jacksonian Democrat. President Jackson appointed him in 1830 as Naval Officer of the Port of Boston, a position which he held four years, and then moved back to his native town of Shirley to pass the remainder of his days in the home of his childhood. He was a member of the House of Representatives from Charlestown in 1816-25-28 and 1829; of the Constitutional Convention in 1820; and a member of the Senate from Middlesex County in 1818-19-20-26-27-36-37 and 1840. He was also a member of the

House from Shirley in 1851, at which time he was Dean of that body. Thus it appears that he was a member of the lower branch five years, and of the upper branch eight years. A most remarkable period of service, testifying to his great ability and popularity. It is also interesting to note, in this connection, that the people of Shirley elected him to the House of 1836 while the people of Middlesex County were electing him to the Senate of the same year! He chose to sit in the upper branch, and resigned his seat in the House. He was the second chairman of the County Commissioners, serving in that capacity from 1812 to 1815, but refused a re-election to the board. During his term the board assumed a radical position upon the temperance question, refusing to grant further licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, on the ground that the "public good did not require such a traffic." This measure was bitterly opposed, but, being steadfastly maintained, soon became the settled policy of all the counties of the Commonwealth. His associates were Hon. Timothy Fletcher, of Charlestown, who was offered the chairmanship of the board, but declined in favor of Mr. Parker, and Hon. Seth Davis, of Newton, who was a total abstainer from the use of strong drink, and the first person in New England, probably, to form a temperance society. He died at the advanced age of one hundred and one years, as will be hereafter noted.

During the long political career of Mr. Parker, he was called upon to perform many public duties, which required the most careful and considerate action. Among others, he was appointed by the State Legislature in 1825 "to prepare a system for the establishment of a seminary for the education of the working classes in the practical arts and sciences." The same year he was one of the Commissioners who settled the long-contested boundary line question between Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1830 he was a Commissioner appointed by the Legislature to examine into the condition of the banks of the County of Suffolk. In 1821 he was Chairman of the State Committee of the Republican party which supported Hon. William H. Crawford for the presidency, but ever after, as heretofore stated, he was a Jacksonian Democrat. In legislative matters he was an indefatigable worker, and originated many changes in the laws which have

proved valuable. It was his principle to oppose all manner of legislation which enriched corporations and individuals at the expense of the people.

It was largely through his watchful care that millions were saved to the educational institutions of the Commonwealth, in the uncompromising opposition which was organized against a proposition to sell the state's interest in the public lands of Maine for the paltry sum of \$150,000. In 1826-27 and 1828 he was Chairman of the joint standing committee on Roads and Railways. The resolves which he reported foreshadowed the building of the Boston & Providence and the Boston & Albany railroads, which he stoutly maintained ought to be done by the state, as they "would prove a source of profit, and not a burden." Think of the millions which might have been saved to the people had his advice been heeded. Ever alert in the interest of his constituents, he was the principal factor in the legislation which finally freed the bridges between Boston and Charlestown, winning against the inveterate opposition of those monopolies which had set up and were determined to maintain a toll-gate against posterity. Defeated the first year by a veto from his father-in-law, Governor Lincoln, he was not cast down, but the next year fought it out to a finish. The results of this victory, even after the lapse of more than half a century, are of incalculable benefit to the people of Boston and the suburban districts, who might now be groaning under this unjust tribute, were it not for his exertions. To Mr. Parker must be ascribed the authorship of that provision in the charter of all railroad corporations which permits the Commonwealth to ultimately assume the management of the road. This amendment, when first introduced by him, met with the most determined opposition, but finally prevailed. Mr. Parker was one of the first, if not the very first, to agitate the slavery question before a legislative assembly, being chairman of a committee of the Massachusetts Senate which reported a series of resolutions, February 22, 1837, calling upon Congress in the most solemn manner to "abolish slavery within the District of Columbia," which, it was claimed, they had a constitutional right to do.

The foregoing is but a brief synopsis of the work accomplished by this industrious and distinguished public servant, who



HON. SETH DAVIS, OF NEWTON,
County Commissioner, 1841-1844. Died at age of 101.

appears to have been a man of absolute sincerity, of remarkable independence, of much more than ordinary ability, and whose aim in life seemed to be "to do good and to prevent harm." He had a brother, Daniel, who graduated at Dartmouth in 1801, who was so greatly distinguished as Judge Advocate of the Third Division of Massachusetts militia during the War of 1812 as to attract the attention of President Madison, who appointed him as Inspector-General of the Army of the United States, with the rank of Brigadier-General. He died in 1848, and was buried in the Congressional burying ground in Washington.

Leonard Moody Parker died in Shirley, and was buried in Worcester by the side of Martha Lincoln, his wife.

Hon. Seth Davis.

Seth Davis 1841

Son of Timothy and Betsey (Flagg) Davis. Born in Ashby, Mass., September 3, 1787, died in Newton, 1888, aged one hundred and one. He was the son of Timothy Davis, a Revolutionary soldier, and in some respects was one of the most remarkable men of his generation. In 1799, at the tender age of twelve, he was apprenticed for the term of one year to a West Townsend miller, and was given charge of a saw-mill, grist-mill, and cabinet shop! In 1802, when fifteen years of age, he came to seek his fortune in West Newton, at that time a sparsely settled place of half a dozen families, with twenty-five cents in his pocket, and all his other worldly possessions tied up in a bandanna handkerchief. Here he found a job, and worked four years for six dollars a month, and ever after remained an active, energetic factor in the life of the community until past the century mark, without having suffered a day of sickness. It is well to note that he was a total abstainer from the use of both liquor and tobacco. He was in school, all told, but twenty months, and yet he became a noted teacher, establishing a famous private school in 1817, which he taught with great success for nearly forty years. From 1807 to 1817 he taught in Mason, N. H., Townsend, Ashby, Newton, and Watertown, where he also had

charge of Seth Bemis' cotton factory. He wrote an arithmetic which was adopted by Newton. He was the first to introduce maps and the study of geography; also of geometry and the custom of declaiming in the public schools of Newton. The town, however, solemnly declared that declamation was "demoralizing in effect and could not be tolerated!" With twenty-seven others, he founded in 1826 what was probably the first temperance organization in New England. He was clerk and treasurer of the First Baptist Church of Newton for thirty years. His thirst for knowledge was said by himself to have been aroused by reading the tales of "Robinson Crusoe." Among his scholars were many men who became famous; of such, Governor Alexander H. Rice was conspicuous. He was a lecturer of ability; was also a Trial Justice and County Commissioner, 1842 to 1845. He had a great fondness for shade trees, and many of the finest elms in West Newton were set out by his hands. He is said to have planted more than a thousand. On the third of September, 1887, the city government of Newton observed the centennial birthday of this grand old man with much ceremony. Addresses were made by the Mayor and many former pupils. Rev. Dr. S. F. Smith, author of "America," recited an original ode, from which is extracted the following stanza:—

“Friend of our early youth and riper age,
The citizen, the patriot, and the sage,
Blessed with an eye to see, a hand to do,
A heart to throb, a soul both large and true,
Man of the present, treasury of the past,
How has thy life been honored to the last!
Of old traditions, thou a matchless store,
A walking volume of historic lore;
Lover of nature in its varied moods,
Its brooks and flowers, its fields and leafy woods.
A thousand trees set by thy loving care,
Attest thy taste and toil which placed them there.”

A few months later this sage philosopher was gathered to his fathers; a most conspicuous example of that occasional product of American institutions, the “self-made” man.



HON. JOSIAH ADAMS, OF FRAMINGHAM.
County Commissioner, 1844-1850. Chairman, 1844-1850.

Hon. Josiah Adams,

Chairman, September, 1844, to September, 1850.



He came from excellent stock, his father, Rev. Moses Adams, being a graduate of Harvard, and a beloved and successful minister in Acton during a long career. Josiah was born in Acton November 3, 1781, and died in Framingham February 8, 1854, aged seventy-three. His mother's maiden name was Abigail Stone. He was graduated at Harvard in 1801, and after reading law with Thomas Heald, Esq., settled at Framingham in 1807, where he remained during the balance of a long and eventful life. He descended from Henry Adams, a grantee of Braintree in 1641. In politics he was a Federalist, while the section in which he lived was overwhelmingly Democratic, so that his political aspirations were rarely gratified; he was, however, a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, a representative in 1827, and a member of the Governor's Council in 1841. He was also Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners from 1841 to 1850. He was prominently identified with the cause of education, and was a trustee of Framingham Academy from 1820 to 1852.

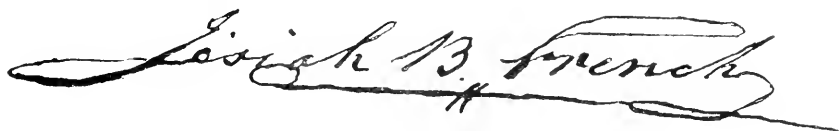
In the first half of the last century a bitter and acrimonious discussion arose between certain citizens of Concord and Acton as to which section was entitled to the everlasting renown of the "shot heard around the world." As a native of Acton, Mr. Adams entered into this controversy with all the force of his brilliant genius, often speaking and writing in behalf of the claims of the men of Acton. In a centennial oration delivered at Acton July 21, 1835, he said: "If the first blood was shed at Concord, the men of Acton arrived to shed it." On another occasion, in responding to a toast on the battle of Concord, he is said to have stampeded the honorable chairman by giving birth to this famous epigram: "Mr. Chairman, it is true that Concord furnished the field, but Acton the men!" He was widely popu-



HON. JOSIAH B. FRENCH, OF LOWELL,
County Commissioner, 1844-1847.

lar, and an able lawyer. His distinguishing characteristic, however, was in the possession of an infinite fund of wit and humor, which often convulsed the Honorable Court with its irresistible brilliancy; indeed, it has been said by some of his contemporaries that this propensity for wit and sarcasm acted as a handicap to prevent his rising to that eminence in his profession which his education and talents justified. As one writer has said, he continually watched for openings for his wit, and, "whenever he saw a loose nail, drove it home." In this, he sometimes overshot the mark, as in the instance of Chief Justice Shaw, who was at one time speaking before an audience of lawyers of certain wonderful things which had come under his observation, mentioning an Egyptian mummy, from the case of which was taken certain seed, which, when planted, brought forth a crop: "Of mummies?" chimed in Mr. Adams! The others laughed, but the eminent Chief Justice scowled and never forgot it.

Hon. Josiah Bowers French.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Josiah B. French". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "Josiah" is written in a large, flowing script, followed by "B." in a smaller, more compact script, and then "French" in a large, flowing script. The signature ends with a long, horizontal flourish that extends to the right.

Son of Luther and Sally (Bowers) French. Born in Billerica December 13, 1799, died in Lowell August 21, 1876, aged seventy-seven. At the age of twenty-four, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Middlesex County, which he held from 1823 to 1830. Coroner of the town of Lowell, 1827; Collector of Taxes, 1829; Assessor, 1833-34; Representative in 1836, and again in 1862. From 1836 to 1842, a member of the Common Council; in 1840 and 1841, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department; and in 1849 and 1850, Mayor of the city of Lowell. From 1831 to 1846 he conducted an extensive staging business, carrying the United States mail between Boston and Montreal. The magnitude of the staging business of Lowell in 1835 can best be understood by stating the fact that from forty to forty-five stages left that city daily in different directions. In 1851 he was Presi-



HON. EBENEZER EARKER, OF CHARLESTOWN,
County Commissioner, 1846-1853.

dent of the Northern railroad, and had been a successful builder and contractor. He was energetic, sagacious, and enterprising to a very remarkable degree, and while his educational facilities were limited to the rude benches of a district school, he had a fine bearing, erect and commanding, and a personal magnetism which charmed and impressed all with whom he came in contact. In politics he was an old-fashioned Jacksonian Democrat, and in religion a Unitarian. He was a County Commissioner from 1811 to 1847.

Hon. Ebenezer Barker.

Eben Barker

Born in Pembroke, Mass., September 9, 1796, died in Charlestown January 4, 1868. Son of Josiah and Penelope (Hatch) Barker. His father was a noted ship builder, and moved to Charlestown in 1799, and was the first Naval Constructor at the Navy Yard. His brother, Josiah H. Barker, was also a ship builder and Naval Constructor of prominence. He was educated at Rev. Thomas Waterman's school in Woburn. After graduating, he entered the counting room of Bray & Boyd, India wharf, Boston. In 1818, as supercargo, he made a voyage to Calcutta in the ship "Aurora." This vessel was built by his father, and was the largest craft hailing from this port. On his return, he was employed as clerk at the Navy Yard, and subsequently as surveyor of timber. Later he became a student with Loammi Baldwin, Jr., the celebrated engineer, who built the dry docks at Charlestown and Norfolk, and from that time followed the profession of a civil engineer. He was Bridge Commissioner; State Agent of the Charles-river and Warren bridges; Representative to the General Court in 1859; Alderman of the city of Charlestown, 1847, 1850, and County Commissioner seven years, from 1846 to 1853, inclusive. He was a man of dignified appearance and fine physique, being about six feet in height, and weighing two hundred and twenty-five pounds. It is said that his resemblance to Daniel Webster was so marked as to fre-



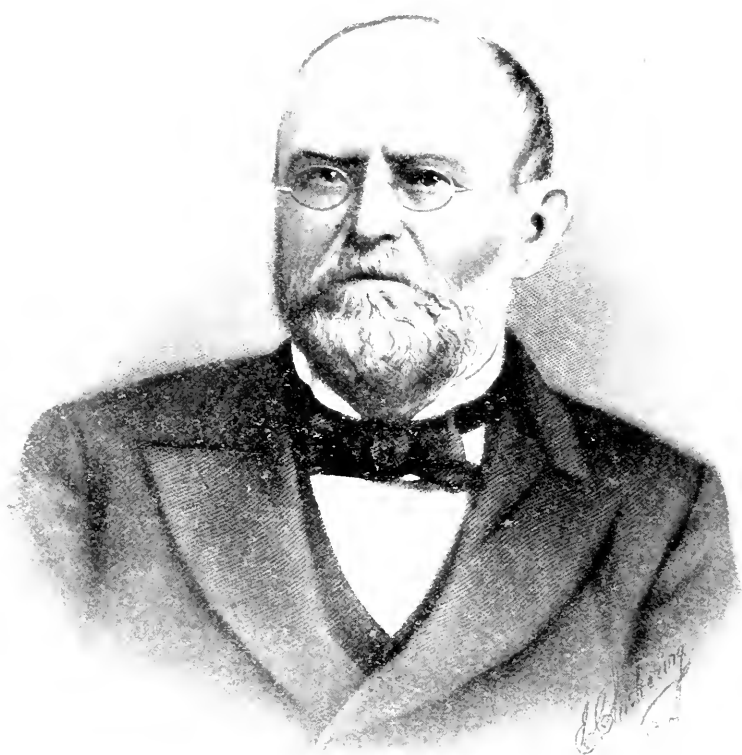
HON. JOSHUA SWAN, OF LOWELL,
County Commissioner, 1847-1850.

quently confound him with that distinguished statesman. His capacity as an engineer, added to wide experience in public affairs, made him a valuable adviser and very efficient associate upon the Board of County Commissioners.

Hon. Joshua Swan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Swan". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

Son of Joshua and Deborah (Burbank) Swan. Born in Methuen January 10, 1788, died in Lowell April 24, 1867, aged seventy-nine. After passing through the district schools of his native town, he was apprenticed to a carpenter, and served his full time, moving to Waltham shortly afterward, where he went into the service of the Waltham Machine Shop, continuing in the employment of this corporation until 1824, when he moved to Lowell and engaged with the Lowell Machine Shop as contractor, etc., remaining with them until 1840, when he retired from active work to the old "Moses Hale" estate, purchased by him in 1830, farming the same during the remainder of his life. On December 3, 1817, he married Olive Jones, of Lancaster, Mass., and raised a family which has been, and is, highly respected. Joshua, Jr., was a Unitarian clergyman. Charles W. is a physician of note in Brookline, and Albert G. a well-known citizen of Lowell. One of his grandsons is Dr. William D. Swan, Medical Examiner, Cambridge; a granddaughter is the widow of ex-Governor William E. Russell, and another the widow of Frank Bolles, who was a Harvard professor. During the life of the Whig party, he always acted with it, becoming a staunch Republican when that party was formed. He was a member of Saint Ann's Episcopal church, and later of Saint John's, in Lowell. He was President of the Mechanics' Asso-



HON. DANIEL S. RICHARDSON, OF LOWELL.
County Commissioner, 1850-1857. Chairman, 1850-1853, and 1855-1856.

ciation in 1834-35. He was a Selectman of Lowell eight out of the ten years of its existence as a town: was frequently elected as Moderator; and, upon the adoption of the city charter in 1837, he was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen. He was a Representative in the Legislatures of 1830-31 and 1839, and again in 1844. He was a Past Master of Monitor Lodge, A. F. and A. M., Waltham; a member of Pentucket Lodge, Mount Horeb, R. A. Chapter; and a charter member of Alasnerus Council of Lowell. He was County Commissioner from 1847 to 1850.

Hon. Daniel Samuel Richardson,

Chairman, September, 1850, to September, 1853, and January, 1855, to January, 1857.

Daniel S. Richardson

Born in Tyngsboro December 1, 1816, died in Lowell March 21, 1890, aged seventy-three years, four months. Son of Hon. Daniel and Mary (Adams) Richardson. His father was a lawyer of distinction, who served as Postmaster of Tyngsboro thirty-five years, as Selectman, etc., several years, and represented the town and senatorial district two years in each branch of the Legislature. Daniel S. was a descendant of Ezekiel, who came to America with Governor John Winthrop in 1630, and was of the first company of Woburn settlers in 1640-42, having previously lived in Charlestown proper, where he was prominent. His son, Captain Josiah, settled in Chelmsford about 1659, and was given by the Indians, "for the love they bore him," the land

at the confluence of the Concord and Merrimack, now mainly occupied as the site of the city of Lowell. His son, Lieutenant Josiah, lived in Chelmsford, "near the Concord river." Captain William, next in the line of descent, settled in Pelham, N. H., formerly a part of Dracut, where his son, Captain Daniel, was born March 11, 1749. This Captain Daniel was the grandfather of Daniel S. He served with distinction three years in the Revolution, and was awarded a pension by the government. From this, it appears that the Richardson ancestral tree sprang from and has been principally nourished in the historic soil of ancient Middlesex.

The subject of this sketch graduated at Harvard in 1836, at the age of twenty, being among the first of his class. His two brothers, Hon. William A., afterwards Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and Hon. George F., a leading member of the bar, were also graduates of Harvard, and became greatly distinguished.

At the age of twenty-four, he commenced the practice of law in Lowell, pursuing it in the same office for fifty years, few advocates being his peer. During his long career, it is said that he argued more than three hundred cases before the Supreme Court. To his first case, Chief Justice Shaw was an attentive listener, and complimented the youthful advocate by remarking, "This case has been very well argued." In 1842-43 and 1847 he was a Representative to the General Court, and in 1862 a member of the Senate; in 1845 and 1846, President of the Common Council; and in 1848 a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Lowell. He was President of the Prescott National Bank sixteen years; President of the Lowell Manufacturing Company; President of the Vermont & Massachusetts railroad; of the Lowell & Nashua railroad; and a member of the Board of County Commissioners from 1850 to 1856, holding the position of Chairman for four years of his term, during which time the Lowell jail was erected. In politics he was first a Whig, and afterwards a firm and consistent Republican; in religion, a Unitarian. He was a man of fine character and remarkable attainments, his death creating a vacancy in society not easily filled.

We quote a couplet from his valedictory, giving advice to an editor who was to succeed him on the Lowell Courier in 1841:—

“Do boldly what you do, and let your page
Smile when it smiles, and when it rages, rage.”

In summing up his character, nothing better can be written than to quote from Hon. Benjamin F. Butler, who said: “He was one of the few men I ever knew who apparently had no enemies. The practice of the bar shows no more fragrant name than that of Daniel S. Richardson.” It is certain that no member of the Board of County Commissioners, either living or dead, has approached him in the wealth and power of his mind as applied to the practice of his chosen profession.



HON. LEONARD HUNTRESS, OF TEWKSBURY.
County Commissioner, 1850-1876. Chairman, 1853-1855, 1856-1860 and 1862-1876.

Hon. Leonard Huntress,

Chairman, September, 1853, to January, 1855; January, 1856,
to January, 1860, and January, 1863, to January, 1876.

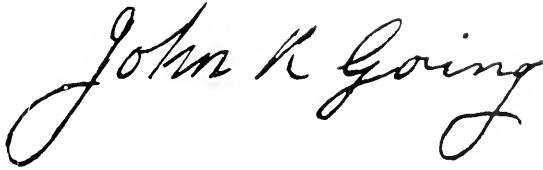
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard Huntress". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "Leonard" is written in a standard cursive, while "Huntress" is more stylized, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word.

Born in Rochester, N. H., November 22, 1811, died in Tewksbury July 19, 1885, aged seventy four. Son of Joseph and Sally (Chesley) Huntress. He came to Lowell in 1832, and obtained employment on the Lowell Mercury, having previously completed his apprenticeship as a printer in Portsmouth, N. H. He established the Lowell Courier in 1835, and continued to publish it until 1842, when, on account of poor health, he retired to a farm in Tewksbury and remained a resident there until the date of his death, a period of forty-three years. During this extended residence, he was fifty-three times elected as Moderator of the meetings of that town, nineteen of which were annual meetings. He was also Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and held many more positions of trust and honor conferred by his fellow citizens. In 1846 he was a member of the House of Representatives from Lowell. In 1850 he was elected as a County Commissioner of Middlesex County, serving as Chairman of the Board most of the time during the remarkable period of twenty-six years. In this responsible office he was an authority upon county practice, and served to the very general satisfaction of the people of this county. A courteous, commanding, genial, and hospitable Christian gentleman, of that type of the old school which is not too common in these latter days, he left a record of clean, lengthy, and most efficient public service which few may equal, and possibly none surpass.



HON. JOHN K. GOING, OF SHIRLEY,
County Commissioner, 1853-1860.

Hon. John Kendall Going, Jr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John K. Going". The letters are fluid and connected, with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'K'.

Born at Shirley December 1, 1810, died there December 20, 1866, aged fifty-six. Son of John Kendall and Mary (Flagg) Going. His parents were humble, unpretentious farming people, who sent their boy to the district school, where, according to his own statement, he was taught only to read, write, spell, and cipher. The bent of his youthful mind is best illustrated by the following incident, as related by his son: When about fourteen years old, his parents gave him a lamb. This lamb he raised to a sheep, and finally exchanged it for a calf; the calf, when it came to maturity, was swapped for an old horse and a cheap harness. Borrowing a wagon, the young man loaded it with produce from the farm, and drove it fifty miles to Boston, where it was disposed of at a good figure. This was his first business venture, and foreshadowed his success later on as a hop merchant and financier. He held a commanding position in Shirley, and from time to time received various official honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. In 1845-48-49 and 1852 he was on the Board of Selectmen, and in 1846 a Representative to the Legislature. In 1853 he was elected a County Commissioner, and served until 1860, during which time the Lowell jail was built. He was the architect of his own fortune, which, by untiring zeal and indefatigable industry, became very large for the times and locality. Severe application to business undermined his health, and brought him to the grave at an early age. Throughout his career he maintained that dignified courtesy and affability which distinguishes a well-balanced character, and thus was popular with all classes, because he was as approachable by the humblest citizen as by the richest and most powerful. He was liberal to the first parish in Shirley, and left a fund to assist in its support. A review of his successful and honorable career reveals the possi-



HON. PAUL HART SWEETSER, OF SOUTH READING.
County Commissioner, 1856-1862. Chairman, 1860-1861.

bilities open to any New England youth of ambition and perseverance, no matter how humble may be his birth and early surroundings.

Hon. Paul Hart Sweetser,
Chairman in 1860 and 1861.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. H. Sweetser". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Born in South Reading September 23, 1807, and died there June 11, 1872, aged sixty-five. Son of Paul and Sarah (Newhall) Sweetser, and to the "manner born," being in the fifth generation of Reading settlers through Michael and Samuel Sweetser, and in the ninth through his great-grandmother, Mary Smith, a lineal descendant of the original Francis Smith, who settled at Smith's Pond, now Wakefield, in 1647. Learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked during minority. At about the age of twenty-one, he entered the South Reading Academy as its first student. Teaching winters, he continued his studies at the academy until he had taught in nearly every district school in town, with such marked success that he obtained permanent schools elsewhere, and in 1838 was appointed master of the Harvard school in Charlestown, where he remained until 1847. His discipline, method of teaching, and playful humor gave him great popularity with his pupils, rendering his work eminently satisfactory. He was prominently identified in establishing the Massachusetts Teachers' Association, and its organ, the "Massachusetts Teacher," of which he was an editor during several years. The reports of the school committee of South Reading and Wakefield for more than twenty years, while he was a member thereof, attest the versatility of his pen. He was a ready and very effective speaker, as the writer hereof can attest from personal recollection. He was both earnest and impulsive, as well as instructive, which always secured the attention of his hearers without wearying them. Early in life he became imbued with anti-slavery senti-



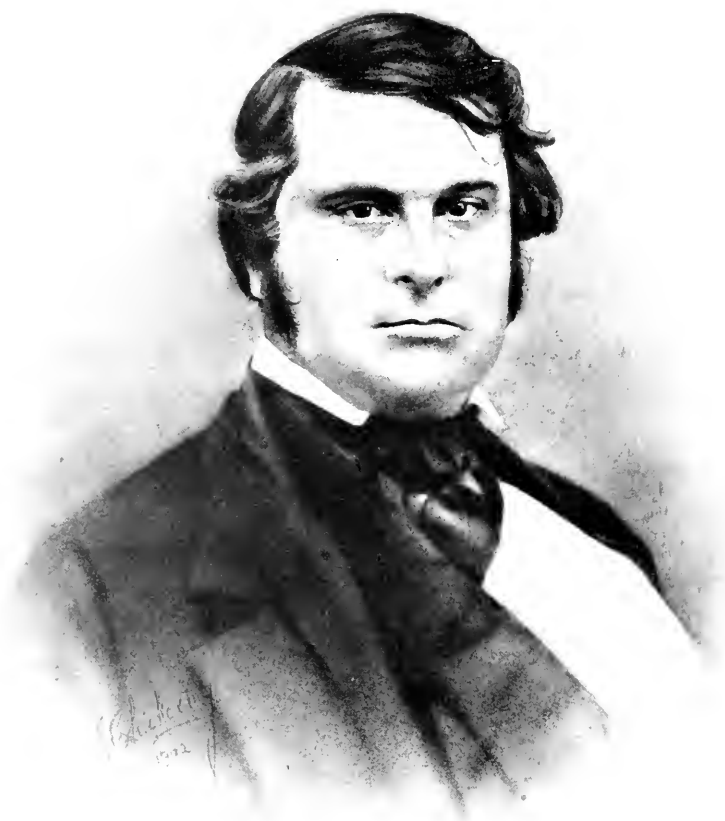
HON. EDWARD J. COLLINS, OF NEWTON,
County Commissioner, 1860-1872.

ments, as well as with the cause of temperance. To these and other reforms he lent the best efforts of his splendid equipment of thought and speech. His reverence for spiritual things and his high moral tone has come to us in scraps of poetry and hymns of special excellence, some of which are preserved in permanent publications. He held many offices as the gift of his fellow townsmen, and after giving up the profession of teaching, was twice elected as a County Commissioner of Middlesex County, serving from 1856 to 1862. His favorite maxim was to "owe no man" anything. In summing up his character, it is safe to say that his personal and official acts would bear the most scrupulous examination because they were based upon the fundamental principles of the Golden Rule.

Hon. Edward Jackson Collins.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. J. Collins". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Son of Matthias and Hannah (Jackson) Collins. Was born in Newton April 24, 1811, and died there July 25, 1879, aged sixty-eight. He descended from a family of English emigrants. Matthias Collins the first settled in Marblehead, and became famous in public life, holding the office of High Sheriff. His son, Matthias the second, came to Newton in 1778, and purchased one hundred acres of land, upon which he lived until his death in 1785. He left an only child, Matthias the third, father of the subject of this sketch. His wife, Hannah Jackson, was descended from Edward Jackson, one of the first settlers of Newton, and a companion of John Eliot. Sebas Jackson, his son, was born, it is said, on the voyage from England. His son, Colonel Ephraim Jackson, who served in the old French War, was in the War of the Revolution, participating in several battles previous to the terrible sufferings at Valley Forge, where he died. He was the grandfather of Hannah Jackson, mother of Edward J. Collins, whose education was confined to the district schools of

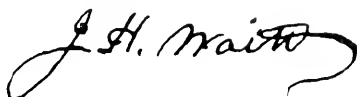


HON. JOSEPH H. WAITT, OF MALDEN,
County Commissioner, 1862-1874.

his native town, supplemented by a course of training at the hands of that venerable pedagogue, Hon. Seth Davis, himself a Commissioner of Middlesex County from 1812 to 1815, whose wise precepts and sound principles undoubtedly laid the foundations of that practical knowledge of general affairs developed by his student later on, contributing to the accumulation of a large fortune through the avenues of legitimate trade. In 1832, at the age of twenty-one, he engaged in the manufacture of glue, continuing therein with great financial success until 1870, a period of thirty-eight years. He enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-citizens to a remarkable degree. In 1858 and 1859 he was their Representative in the General Court. He had served as Assessor and Selectman, and at the time of his death was Treasurer and Collector of Taxes. He was County Commissioner of Middlesex County, 1860 to 1872.

Mr. Collins was possessed of a warm heart, with benevolent impulses, although to some he might have been considered as stern and austere. He was a most sincere and successful man of business, whose integrity was never questioned, and whose word was never doubted.

Hon. Joseph Henry Waitt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. H. Waitt". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Son of Aaron and Nancy (Cheever) Waitt. Was born in Malden August 13, 1813, and died there, after a painful illness of many months, June 11, 1875, aged sixty-two. For almost twenty-five years he was in the employ of the Walworth Manufacturing Company, previous to which he was engaged in the sale of books.

"Uncle Joe," or "Captain" Waitt, as he was familiarly known a generation since, was a prominent factor in the social and political life of Malden, and in the wider arena of county affairs, wherein he was deservedly popular and served with general satisfaction. The only office to which he aspired in his native town



HON. HARRISON HARWOOD, OF NATICK.
County Commissioner, 1872-1882. Chairman, 1876-1882. Died in office.

was that of Water Commissioner, to the first board of which he was elected. In religious matters he was a Methodist by profession. He was prominently identified with various fraternal organizations, Masonry being conspicuous. During many years, and at the time of his death, he was the Marshal of Mount Vernon Lodge, a position for which he was peculiarly adapted. No one who ever saw him wield the baton can forget the profound display of humility with which he approached a commanding officer, the deference in his salutation, or the extreme dignity of his bearing as he proudly conducted a marching column. Genial, whole-souled, and courteous, his death was widely lamented, and by none more sincerely than by his brethren of the mystic tie who sadly followed his body to the grave and deposited it there with courteous and knightly honors. Entering upon the duties of his office in moderate circumstances, he continued so through twelve long years of service, and died poor, as every honest Commissioner must die who lives as becomes his station and depends upon his salary for support. He was upon this board from 1862 to 1874.

Hon. Harrison Harwood,

Chairman, January, 1876, to September, 1882. Died in Office.

H. Harwood

Son of George Washington and Anna (Bisco) Harwood. Born in North Brookfield, Mass., October 18, 1814, died in Natick August 27, 1882, aged sixty-eight. He came from good old patriotic stock; his grandfather, Peter Harwood, born in Littleton in 1740, was a descendant from the Harwoods of Colonial days. He was Lieutenant of Captain Burns' company of Brookfield minutemen, and marched at the Lexington alarm. Joining the Continental army in 1775, he served as Captain in Colonel Leonard's regiment, and as Major and Brigade Major in General Nixon's brigade, resigning October 16, 1780, having served five years. He was officer of the day at the execution of Major Andre. At Westminster Academy, the subject of this sketch had



HON. DANIEL G. WALTON, OF WAKEFIELD.
County Commissioner, 1874-1886. Chairman, 1882-1886.

made such proficiency in his studies that he became a successful teacher at the age of nineteen. Later on he was in business at Adrian, Mich., for three years, returning East at the age of twenty-five. He resided successively at Oakham, Fitchburg, and Winchendon, where he became an active and enterprising manufacturer, and erected many buildings, both public and private. Returning to Adrian, Mich., he resumed business there, but finally settled in Natick in 1858. In this town he erected and maintained successfully to the day of his death a factory for the manufacture of baseballs of the regulation pattern, and a tannery to produce a quality of leather suitable to be used as a covering. This enterprise proved remunerative, and gave employment to a large number of people of both sexes, and has proved a blessing to the town.

For his public spirit and enterprise he received the grateful acknowledgments of his town in three successive elections to the Board of Selectmen. Elected in 1871 upon the Board of County Commissioners, he was re-elected three times, six years of which he served as Chairman, holding that position at the time of his death. During his long business career, he met at times with almost insurmountable difficulties and severe disappointments, but these disciplines only served to urge him on to more persevering effort, until success finally crowned his labors with abundant rewards. He was a useful and trusted public servant, made so by gentlemanly conduct and excellent judgment, united to many of those finer qualities of mind and heart which endeared him to a loving family and a wide circle of friends.

Hon. Daniel Gould Walton,
Chairman, September, 1882, to January, 1886.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel G. Walton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.

Born in South Reading April 25, 1824, died in Wakefield April 7, 1898, aged seventy-four. He was the son of James and Elizabeth (Bryant) Walton, and resided in his native town during



HON. J. HENRY READ, OF WESTFORD,
County Commissioner, 1876-1897. Chairman, 1886-1897.

his entire life. In early life Mr. Walton was engaged in various business enterprises which proved successful. Among others, he was a proprietor with George Wheeler for many years of the restaurant in the old station of the Boston & Maine railroad on Haymarket square, Boston, where he is favorably remembered by the "old guard" of a generation ago. After retiring from active business, his sagacity and uprightness won for him the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens to a remarkable degree, and he was called upon to settle many estates, and to act in other trust and fiduciary capacities. By careful and judicious investments, he became the largest individual owner of real estate in the business centre of Wakefield. He married Elizabeth Jeanette Aborn, of South Reading, a sister of the wife of Hon. Thomas Winship, January 11, 1852. Mr. Walton was a member of the Golden Rule Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and was identified with all the Masonic organizations meeting at Melrose. He was a director in the National Bank of South Reading, of the Wakefield and Stoneham Street Railway Company, and a trustee of the Charlestown Five Cent Savings Bank. He has served as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor in Wakefield, and was a County Commissioner of the County of Middlesex from 1874 to 1886, serving as Chairman of the board from September, 1882, to January, 1886.

Hon. Joseph Henry Read,
Chairman from January, 1886, to January, 1897.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Henry Read". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.

Born in Westford, August 5, 1835, died at Toledo, O., while returning from a trip to the far West, January 26, 1901, aged sixty-six. Son of Zaccheus, Jr., and Mary (Heywood) Read. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Westford. He was educated in the schools of his native town and at Westford Academy, one of his teachers being the recent able and accom-

plished Register of Probate of Middlesex County, Samuel H. Folsom, Esq.; another was Hon. John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy. After holding various local offices, such as Selectman (ten years), Overseer of the Poor, School Committee (fifteen years), Auditor, Moderator, etc., the people of his district, mostly a farming population, recognizing in him an example of one of their own calling who could represent them acceptably in any position, chose him to the General Court in 1872 and 1873. In 1876 he received further honors by being elected a County Commissioner, to which position he was constantly re-elected until 1891, a period of twenty-one years, being Chairman during the last half of this extended term, only exceeded in point of time by but one person in the entire history of the Commissioners, viz., Hon. Leonard Huntress, whom he succeeded on said board, the combined service of these two gentlemen being forty-seven years, a wonderful tribute from the voters of this great county to the popularity and satisfactory public service of each. During his public career he continued to conduct the ancestral farm in Westford, and made it famous for the quality of its apple vintage, "Read's cider" being recognized among connoisseurs as a standard brand of superior excellence. He was Director and Secretary of the Westford Mutual Fire Insurance Company eighteen years, director of the Stony Brook railroad twenty-five years, also one of the Trustees of Westford Academy. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and connected with the Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, and Consistory in Lowell. He was a man of kindly heart and generous impulses, with an abiding faith in every one who professed to be a friend. His social qualities, while adding nothing to, but extracting much from, his larder of worldly riches, increased the priceless value of the esteem of those faithful and loving friends who sorrowfully followed his mortal remains from the old church, braving the bleak and biting blasts of a New England winter's day, and tenderly laid them to rest near the ashes and bones of that hardy ancestry which for more than two centuries had battled with elements from without and with elements from within, to establish and maintain that peace and prosperity which were his by the everlasting right of inheritance. As the rays of the setting sun glittered upon the

cold and silent peaks of distant ranges, some faithful hearts there were among that weeping company, whose visions tore aside those frowning battlements of ice and snow, peering beyond to catch a glimpse of God's eternal promise of living streams and pastures green, where the weary, storm-tossed soul may rest in everlasting peace.

Genealogy of Joseph Henry Read, of Westford.

(1) Esdras Reade, of Boston, supposed to be a son of Matthew and Alice (Ward) Reade, of England. Esdras was a man of importance and character. A tract of land situated at Muddy Brook, now Brookline, was granted to him by the town of Boston, and he also had a grant from the town of Salem, where he was living in 1637. From Salem he went to Wenham, and served as Representative to the General Court, 1648 to 1651. With Rev. John Fiske and six other members of his church, he moved to Chelmsford in 1655, subsequently (in 1661) returning to Boston, where he died in 1680, as may be seen on his tombstone in Copp's Hill burial ground.

(2) Obediah, his son, was married June 19, 1664, to Anna Swift.

(3) Thomas, son of Obediah and Anna, lived in Chelmsford. On February 7, 1707, he bought land lying between Tadnoe and Stony Brooks.

(4) Thomas, son of Thomas, of Chelmsford, born July, 1665. Married Sarah Fletcher.

(5) Joseph, born June 4, 1716. Married Ruth Underwood. He represented Westford twenty successive years in the Legislature, and was commissioned a Deputy Sheriff under the Crown in 1746. He was a patriot, and is said to have been connected with the famous Boston Tea Party, although his name does not appear as an active participant on board the ships.

(6) Joshua, born December 1, 1737. Married May Spaulding.

(7) Zaccheus, born March 8, 1773. Married Mary Parker.

(8) Zaccheus, born January 27, 1796. Married Mary Heywood.



HON. WILLIAM S. FROST, OF MARLBORO.
County Commissioner, 1882-1893.

(9) Joseph Henry, born August 5, 1835. Married Mary Ann Falls.

The descendants of Esdras were apparently the first settlers of Westford.

Hon. William Squire Frost,



A resident of Marlboro, was born at Stukely, Province of Quebec, March 20, 1828, of New England parentage. His father, Aaron Frost, went to the provinces from Jaffrey, N. H., his mother, Rosetta Knowlton, from Templeton, Mass. When eight years of age, his parents moved to Lowell, Mass., and he was educated in the public schools of that city. At seventeen years of age, he commenced his apprenticeship to the trade of a mason, and worked at that business until 1882, the last thirty years as contractor and builder. In 1882, at a special election, he was elected to the Board of County Commissioners, to fill out the unexpired term of Harrison Harwood, deceased. He was re-elected for three full terms, making ten years and one month in all. September 16, 1862, he was mustered into the United States service as Second Lieutenant in Company I, Fifth Massachusetts Volunteers, for nine months, and served in North Carolina, taking part in the battles of Kingston, Whitehall, and Goldsboro. He came home with the regiment at expiration of term of service. On the nineteenth of July, 1864, was mustered into the United States service as First Lieutenant of Company I, Fifth regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, for one hundred days, was stationed as Assistant Provost Marshal at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, in charge of prisoners of all kinds,—rebels, deserters, bounty jumpers, etc. Came home with the regiment at the expiration of term of service; was Chief Engineer of the Fire Department of Marlboro in 1859-60-61.

He has served on various important town committees, principal of which were remodeling and strengthening the Town Hall; Chairman of committee to investigate the introduction of



HON. ALPHONSO M. LUNT, OF CAMBRIDGE.
County Commissioner, 1886-1889.

a system of water works into the town; and one of a committee of five to superintend the building of the same. Chairman of committee to procure a suitable soldiers' monument; two years Master of United Brethren Lodge, F. and A. M.; three years Commander of Post 43, G. A. R.; President of Fifth Regiment Veteran Association; a member of the Board of Assessors of Marlboro during the past seven years, of which he is Chairman at the present time.

Hon. Alphonso Moses Lunt.



Son of Dr. Moses Dole and Susan (Libby) Lunt. Born in South Berwick, Me., September 6, 1837, and now resides in Cambridge. After the customary training afforded in a district school, he went to Portland and learned the printing business, remaining therein as a journeyman and proprietor both in Portland and Boston until August, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company F, Thirty-eighth Massachusetts Volunteers, in which he served during the remainder of the Civil War, being mustered out in July, 1865. His regiment was in Louisiana, and took part in the various engagements around Port Hudson. He was also in the Shenandoah Valley, and saw active service all along the line. At the battle of Opequan Creek, Va., September 19, 1864, Sergeant Lunt was in command of the color guard, and personally bore the national flag throughout the engagement. At one time the rebel line of battle, carrying several battle flags, were within talking distance, and although the whole of his color guard was swept away, and for a while he stood alone amid the dead and wounded, under a tremendous fire from ten times the number of the Union forces, still he remained where he had been placed by his colonel as steadily and bravely as though on parade, encouraging and begging the men not to fall back until victory finally resulted. During this stand of Sergeant Lunt, twenty-two bullets penetrated the flag, and the brass lance on the top of the staff was shot away. In 1894 he was awarded by the govern-



HON. SAMUEL O. UPHAM, OF WALTHAM.
County Commissioner, 1889 —.

ment a "Medal of Honor," upon which is inscribed the following: "The Congress to Sergeant Alphonso M. Lunt, Company F, 35th Mass. Vol's, for most distinguished conduct at the battle of Opequan Creek, Va., Sep. 19th, 1864." He is a Past Commander of Post 57, G. A. R., and served as a member of the Board of County Commissioners from 1886 to 1889, since which time he has been connected with the revenue and postal department of the government.

Hon. Samuel Otis Upham.

Saml O. Upham

John Upgame 1658

Phineas Upgame 1675

Son of Otis and Mary (Sloan) Upham. Was born in Waltham January 21, 1824, where he still resides. He comes from the best Colonial stock of ancient Middlesex, being seventh in descent from John Upham (ancestor of all of the name), who came to Weymouth in 1635, finally settling in Malden, where he died in 1681. Lieutenant Phineas Upham, his son, the lineal ancestor of the subject of this sketch, was a man of commanding presence, being more than six feet in height, and possessing wonderful powers of physical endurance, as well as unflinching courage. He participated with the Fourth Massachusetts company, Captain Johnson, in that memorable march to Narragansett through the blizzards and biting blasts of midwinter, to attack the "great swamp fort" of King Philip December 19, 1675, by which the power of this mighty chieftain was crushed forever. In this sanguinary conflict Captain Johnson was killed outright, and the leadership of his men devolved on Lieutenant Upham, who fought on until desperately wounded. The remnant of this



HON. FRANCIS BIGELOW, OF NATICK,
County Commissioner, 1893 — .

heroic band bore him from the field, and finally, after terrible privations, he arrived at his home only to lie down and die. To this brave man, and such as he, are we indebted for our priceless legacies of liberty and happiness. Samuel O. Upham attended the common schools of his native town, and at an early age worked in the cotton mills of that place. In due time he was apprenticed to a hatter, serving his full time, afterwards working at his trade in Boston, Portland, New York, and elsewhere. Early in life he was interested in politics, and became a warm adherent of his friend and fellow-townsmen, Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks, entering into the various political contests of his chief with all the fire and energy of an ardent and impulsive nature. His sincerity and sterling qualities have attracted a wide circle of acquaintances whose friendship and confidence is unlimited, as evidenced in the universal success which has attended his political career for more than half a century. The people of Waltham chose him several times upon the Board of Selectmen, and he served them many years as town Moderator. In 1855 he was elected to the House of Representatives, serving again in 1887-1888, when he was Dean of the House. He was Messenger of the Governor and Council from 1858 to 1861. From 1861 to 1865 he was in the Boston Custom House, and Postmaster of the city of Waltham from 1869 to 1886. Since the formation of the Republican party, he has been an ardent, firm, and consistent supporter of its policy. He is a Past Master of Monitor Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and a member of the Royal Arch Chapter at Waltham. He is now serving his sixth term upon the Board of County Commissioners, having been first elected in 1889.

Hon. Francis Bigelow.



Son of Charles and Rebecca (Babcock) Bigelow. Born in Sherborn April 21, 1810; now resides in Natick. His opportunities for schooling, like those of most country boys, were brief, as

he was apprenticed to a carpenter at the age of fourteen. On completing his term of service, he worked a while at his trade, then drove a stage, afterwards ran an express, and finally became a successful shoe manufacturer in Natick, from which he retired with a competency some years ago. His sound judgment and business ability are fully recognized by the people of Natick and vicinity, as well as by those of the County of Middlesex. He has served many years on the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the town of Natick, and is a valuable member of the Board of Trustees of the savings bank in that town. He was a member of the House of Representatives in 1879 and 1880, and of the Senate in 1885 and 1886. He has been a member of the Board of County Commissioners since 1893. Francis Bigelow is a descendant in the seventh generation from John Biglo and Mary Warren, whose marriage in 1642 was the first one recorded in Watertown. John Biglo was a surveyor of highways in said town from 1652 to 1660, and a Selectman in 1665-70-77. He is mentioned in the early records as John Biglo, John Biggalough, John Bigolo, and John Bigulah, according to the orthography of the clerk who happened to be the recording officer.

This confusion doubtless arose from the fact that the original John was an illiterate blacksmith, who probably could neither read or write, as he always made his mark to documents requiring his signature, and quite likely could not spell his name twice alike; however, his oldest son, John, adopted the name of Bigelow, and it has clung to the family ever since. John Biglo served in King Philip's War, and is the common ancestor of the American family bearing the name of Bigelow, among whom there have been and still are men highly distinguished in theology, the law, medicine, literature, politics, science, and art. By his wife Mary he had thirteen children. He died July 14, 1703, at Watertown, aged eighty-six. His estate inventoried £627 12s., quite a sum for those days. Among the funeral expenses paid by his estate was a bill for "twenty gallons of wine, with allspice and sugar, and two men and horses to carry the wine to the funeral"! Mary Warren was born in England, and came to this country with her father, as some assert, in Governor Winthrop's party in 1630. Her father's name was John Warren,

and he was recorded with one hundred and eighteen other inhabitants of Watertown as a Freeman in 1631. He was made a surveyor of highways in 1635, and Selectman from 1636 to 1640. Why he came to America and brought his daughter into this wilderness is not apparent, but one thing seems to be established: that he was a lineal descendant from "William the Conqueror," King of England. Among those who fought at the battle of Hastings, October 11, 1066, which gave the control of England to William, Duke of Normandy, was one William de Warren, a Norman baron, whose services were so highly valued by "The Conqueror" that he gave him the hand of "Gundred" and two hundred and ninety-eight English manors, with lavish titles. Through "Burke's Peerage," and equally valuable authorities, there seems to be no difficulty in tracing the blood of William and Gundred through twenty generations to that humble Puritan maiden, Mary Warren. United to that sturdy blacksmith, she has transmitted, considerably diluted in the struggles of more than eight centuries, a dash of the best blood of the royal lines of England, Germany, France, and Italy! Strange as it may seem, this is not an idle tale, but a truthful incident in genealogical research. It is introduced here solely as an episode of interest not only to the subject of this sketch and his relatives and friends, but to all who inherit the name of Bigelow from John Biglo, of Watertown, also to such as claim the name of Warren and carry a fraction of the blood of kings and queens as it coursed through the veins of the original John Warren, the father of Mary. To the casual observer, it points to the oft-repeated maxim that "blood will tell," and thus it happens that this combination of the fiery Italian, the mercurial Frenchman, the phlegmatic German, the Norwegian Corsair, and the sturdy Norman, with the plain and unpretentious Puritan, has produced the highest type of the liberty-loving, God-fearing, American citizen.



HON. LEVI S. GOULD, OF MELROSE.
County Commissioner, 1897 ——. Chairman, 1897 ——.

Hon. Levi Swanton Gould,
Chairman, January, 1897, to date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George F. Gould". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Son of Dr. Levi and Elizabeth Webb (Whitmore) Gould. Born in Dixmont, Me., March 27, 1831. Was educated in Wilmington and North Malden, now Melrose, where he has resided since childhood. Learned the shoemaker's trade, and worked at the bench in early life, but subsequently became an accountant, and finally for many years was a furniture manufacturer and dealer in Boston, from which business he retired in 1889. He was a Selectman of Melrose in 1869, and Chairman of the Board from 1881 to 1892. From 1865 to 1899 (thirty-five years) he served as town moderator continuously, to which office he was elected one hundred and eight times, which, with one hundred and seven adjournments, made two hundred and fifteen meetings over which he was called upon to preside during the life of the town, and when it became a city in 1900, he was elected the first Mayor. He was a member of the House of Representatives in 1868 and 1869. He has been upon the Board of County Commissioners since 1897, serving as its Chairman during the entire period. He is President of the Melrose Co-operative Bank, and a director of the Melrose National Bank. He was President of the New England Furniture Exchange in 1883 and 1884, and of the Furniture Club of Boston in 1886. He is a member of the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars, the Society Sons of the American Revolution, W. P. M. of Wyoming Lodge, A. F. and A. M., an officer of Waverly R. A. Chapter, and a member of Hugh de Payne's Commandery, and of the Scottish Rites. He is Past Chancellor of Fordell Lodge, K. of P., and is connected with many other societies and organizations.

He is a descendant from John Gould, the first settler of Charlestown End, now Stoneham (1635), and Francis Whitmore, often mentioned as an officer and otherwise of the town of Cambridge (1636), whose grave stone is in the old cemetery in Medford square. Both were troopers in King Philip's War, John Gould bearing arms until after seventy-two years of age.* Jacob Gould, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, with two of his sons, were minutemen of Stoneham, and all three were in the Concord fight. They went from the old homestead at the head of Spot Pond, the land surrounding the same, now owned by the Commonwealth, having been in the family during many generations. The locality was first mentioned by Governor Winthrop, he having visited it in 1632. Tradition has it that one of the Goulds rode without saddle or bridle a favorite white mare into the trenches at Bunker Hill. Before the firing began, he turned the faithful beast loose, and she trotted safely back to her barn in Stoneham. It is also said that he wore on that day an old-fashioned shaggy beaver, of which he was very proud. It was lost in the rush of the retreat. Being rallied by his companions, he returned over the ground, found the hat, and bore it away in triumph, but riddled with bullets. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of ancient Middlesex, and were represented in every war of the Colonial and Revolutionary period. Mary Lane, daughter of Major John Lane, of Billerica (who fought in King Philip's, King William's, and Queen Anne's Wars), a direct ancestor of the subject of this sketch (through John Whitmore, 2d, her husband), on the occasion of an Indian raid while her father was away, shot the last savage killed in Billerica. She lived to be ninety-seven years of age. Her mother was Susannah, a daughter of Captain John Whipple, a noted military man of Ipswich. Job Lane, father of Major John, was one of the earliest settlers of Malden. He fought in King Philip's War. He was a carpenter, and is said to have built one of the first buildings for Harvard College; also the great bridge across the Concord at Billerica. He bought the Governor

* "June 20, 1682, John Gould of Stoneham aged about 73 years is released from all ordinary traynings."—See Fol. 46, Court Records Middlesex County.

Winthrop farm of about 1,500 acres in Billerica (now Bedford), and it was upon this estate that his son, Major John, lived and died. The mother of Major John was Anna, daughter of Rev. John Rayner, pastor of the first church in Plymouth, 1636 to 1651. Through Deacon John Whitmore, of Medford, son of Francis the first (who served with Major Swayne against the Saco Indians), and Rachel (Poulter), who was a daughter of Francis Eliot, of Braintree (now Quincy), he is descended from Bennett Eliot, of Nazing, County of Essex, Eng., who was the father of Rev. John Eliot, the distinguished "Apostle of the Indians." The mother of Rachel Eliot was Mary, daughter of Martin Samders, who came over in the "Planter" in 1635. He was one of the earliest settlers of Braintree; one of the Selectmen, and the first innholder.

Francis Eliot died January 17, 1697. About 1650 he became a teacher among the Praying Indians, under his elder brother, the "Apostle."

Through Doreas Belcher, wife of Daniel Gould, he is descended from Jeremiah Belcher of Ipswich, 1635. Through his grandmother, Hannah Hill, whose grandfather, James, married Lois Upham, he is descended from Lieutenant Phineas Upham, of Malden, who was wounded in the "Great Swamp" fight at Narragansett against King Philip.



Homestead of Jacob Gould at Spot Pond, Stoneham. Built about 1700. From this house he and his two sons went to the Lexington fight, April, 19, 1775.



HON. WILLIAM PYNCHON, OF ROXBURY AND SPRINGFIELD,
Colonial Treasurer, 1632-1634.

Treasurers of the "Governor and Company of the
Massachusetts Bay in New England." These
Officers probably performed the duties
of County Treasurers Previous
to 1654.

George Harwood, of London, May 13, 1629.

He never came to New England.

Samuel Aldersey, of London, December 1, 1629.

He was also elected as an Assistant, in London, October 20, 1629, but there is no evidence that he ever came over.

Hon. William Pynchon, of Roxbury, August 7, 1632.

William Pynchon

He came over with Winthrop, and was an Assistant from 1630 to 1636 and from 1646 to 1650. In 1636 he led a colony to Springfield and governed the same as magistrate until 1652. In 1650 he wrote a book concerning "justification," which the apostle Eliot denounced as heretical. Its teachings were discussed by the General Court, the book condemned and ordered to be burned. Pynchon returned to England, where he died, at Wraistburg, October 29, 1662, aged seventy-two years.



GOV. WILLIAM CODDINGTON, OF BOSTON, AND IN 1637 OF RHODE ISLAND,
Colonial Treasurer, 1634-1636.

Gov. William Coddington, of Boston, May 18, 1634.

W^m Coddington

He came with Winthrop, and was an Assistant from 1630 to 1636. He emigrated to Rhode Island in 1637, where he was active in the development of that colony, of which he was Governor, "on consent of the governed," as he was pleased to term it, from 1640 to 1647. As might be supposed, considering his surroundings, he became a Quaker towards the last of his career. Died November 1, 1678, aged seventy-seven years.

Hon. Richard Dummer, of Roxbury, May 26, 1636.

Ric: Dummer. 1686.

Born in 1599 at Bishopstoke, Hants. He came on the "Whale" May 24, 1632, and built a mill in Roxbury in 1633. He was an Assistant from 1633 to 1636, and Representative from 1640 to '45 and in 1647. With Thomas Dudley and Simon Bradstreet he held the position of a magistrate of the Inferior Court, held at Ipswich and Newbury. He moved from Roxbury, and spent the balance of his life in Newbury within the Parish of Byfield, where he had an extensive plantation finely stocked, and was rated as the richest man in the colony. He fell from Puritan grace, however, being a follower of Ann Hutchinson. Judge Jeremiah Dummer, a silversmith of Boston, who sat on the bench until 1715, was his son. His grandson, William Dummer, Acting Governor of the colony, a son of Jeremiah, was the founder of "Dummer Academy," of Byfield, distinguished as the earliest institution of its class in this Commonwealth. Another grandson, Samuel, was Sheriff of Middlesex County; still another was Jeremiah, one of the most brilliant men of his day. He died December 14, 1679, aged eighty years.

Gov. Richard Bellingham, of Boston, May 17, 1637.

Richard Bellingham

He came over in 1634, and became very prominent in public affairs. His mansion was situated on Tremont street, nearly opposite the northerly end of Kings Chapel burying ground. He was Deputy Governor in 1635, and in a heated campaign was elected Governor in 1641 by a majority of six votes over John Winthrop. He was re-elected in 1654 and again in 1665. In 1664 he was Major-General. He appears to have served thirteen years as Deputy Governor and ten years as Governor, dying in the latter office December 7, 1672, aged eighty years.

Captain William Tyng, of Boston, May 13, 1640.

Wm. Tyng

Came on the ship Nicholas in 1638. He was a very prominent and wealthy merchant of Boston, whose mansion house and gardens occupied the present site of Adams Square, and its immediate vicinity. He was Selectman from 1639 to 1644 and Representative in 1639-40-41-42-43 and '47. He was again elected to represent the town of Braintree in 1649-50 and '51. He died January 18, 1652.

Hon. Richard Russell, of Charlestown, November 13, 1644.

Richard Russell

He was born in Hereford, England, in 1611, and came over in 1640. Like his predecessor in office he became a very successful merchant, whose position and character was of the highest order. He was First Lieutenant of A. H. A. Company, Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1647-48-54-56 and '58, and an Assistant from 1659 to 1676. He died May 15, 1677, aged sixty-six years.

TREASURERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY SINCE 1654.

Hon. Thomas Danforth, of Cambridge, 1654 to 1657 (3 years).

He was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the colony. His official career, which was varied and covered many years, is detailed among the "Clerks of Court." He was a co-worker with the "Apostle" Eliot among the Indians.

Edward Goffe, of Cambridge, 1657 to 1658 (1 year).

Edward Goffe 1657.

He landed in America in 1635, having been shipwrecked in a previous voyage in 1634. He settled in Cambridge, where he became wealthy and influential. His estate was a fine one of about thirty acres in the heart of the town. Between 1636 and 1655 he was Selectman sixteen years. He was Representative in 1646-47-48-49 and 50. He died in the office of Treasurer October 26, 1658.

John Stedman, of Cambridge, 1658 to 1683 (25 years).

John Stedman 1683.

Born in England in 1601. He came over in 1638 as steward to Rev. Jose Glover, who died during the passage. After serving a while with the widow Glover, who afterwards married Henry Dunster, the first president of Harvard College, he established himself in business on the present corner of Mount Auburn street and Brattle square. Having been granted by the town a monopoly in the sale of furs, he prospered greatly for half a century and became wealthy. He was Selectman sixteen years, between 1640 and 1676, and was an Ensign in 1645. He lived to the ripe old age of ninety-two years, dying December 16, 1693, honored and respected.

Samuel Andrew, of Cambridge, 1683 to 1700 (17 years).

Sam: Andrews
1683

Born in 1621. In early life he was a ship-master of recognized ability, manifested in his selection by Harvard College as an expert to settle some disputed questions in navigation. He was a Constable in 1666, a position of great importance in those days; Selectman, 1681 to 1693; Town Clerk, 1682 to 1693, and Town Treasurer, 1694 to 1699. An influential public servant. He died, highly respected, June 21, 1701, aged eighty years.

Hon. James Russell, of Charlestown, 1700 to 1709 (9 Years).

James Russell

Born October 4, 1640. Son of Hon. Richard Russell, Colonial Treasurer. He was an Assistant from 1680 to 1686; a Representative to the General Court; one of the Council, and a Judge of the Inferior Court from December 7, 1692, to April 28, 1709. He died in the office of Treasurer April 28, 1709, aged sixty-nine years.

Daniel Russell, of Charlestown, 1709 to 1763 (54 Years).

Dan: Russell

Born December 1, 1685. Son of Hon. James Russell, whom he succeeded in the office of Treasurer, remaining in said office until the date of his death, covering a period of more than half a century. He was "Provincial Commissioner of Imposts," and a member of the Council for twenty years. He died December 6, 1763, aged seventy-eight years.

Hon. James Russell, of Charlestown, 1763 to 1776 (13 Years).

James Russell

Born August 5, 1715. He was the son of Hon. Daniel Russell, his predecessor in office, thus completing an unbroken line of family service in this office, through his father and grandfather, of seventy-six years. He was a Representative in the General Court from 1746 to 1759, and afterwards a member of the Council. He was appointed Judge of the Inferior Court May 17, 1771, and sat on the bench until the outbreak of the Revolution. At various times he lived in Dunstable, Lincoln, and Charlestown, dying in the latter place in 1798, aged eighty-three.

David Cheever, of Charlestown, 1776 to 1778 (2 Years).

David Cheever

Born June 1, 1722. A distiller and prominent member of the First Church. He was a Selectman from 1761 to 1768; one of the "Committee of Correspondence" November 27, 1773; delegate to the Provincial Congress 1774-75 and '76; a Representative to the General Court at Watertown, and a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Middlesex from May 3, 1776, to September, 1778. In 1778 he moved to Boston, when the General Court declared the office of Treasurer vacant, through his removal, and ordered a special election to fill the vacancy. As an ardent and active patriot he took a prominent part in the proceedings which brought about the Revolution, it being a matter of record that he was elected Moderator of a meeting which assembled at the Old South meeting house, December 14, 1773, to take action concerning the tea, and he was also one of a committee appointed to obtain from the collector a clearance for the tea ships. At the battle of Bunker Hill, the British destroyed his mansion house, cooper's shop and distillery, amounting in the aggregate to

£2,176 sterling. His wife died in Dorchester, October, 1811, and he appears to have been living at that time, but when administration upon her estate was applied for in 1815 he was represented to be deceased. He was one of the founders of American Liberty who suffered for the cause. At the time of his death he was upwards of ninety years of age.

Adj. Gen. Ebenezer Bridge, of Chelmsford, 1778 to 1807 (29 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Bridge Reg.". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Reg.".

Born there April 29, 1744. He was the son of Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, a distinguished minister of that town, and was graduated at Harvard in 1764. After leaving college, he taught school in Worcester for several terms, and finally became a dealer in "East and West India goods" in Billerica. In 1775 he was chosen Colonel of the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Minutemen. This regiment participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, where he was wounded. He was also the first Adjutant-General of this Commonwealth, having been appointed under the first Act for the government of the Militia, approved March 3, 1781. His appointment fixed him at that time as a citizen of Chelmsford. He was Register of Deeds from 1776 to 1781, and Senator from 1781 to 1800. Why he did not remain in the military service in the field is probably explained from the fact that the management of his command at Bunker Hill was a subject of sharp criticism, although an honorable wound received in battle would seem to set aside any question of personal valor. That the people believed in him is evident, through thirty-one years of constant public service. After a painful and lingering illness, he passed away at Hardwick, N. Y., February 9, 1814, aged seventy years.

Hon. John Leighton Tuttle, of Concord, 1807 to 1813 (6 years).



Born in Littleton, Mass., February 10, 1774. Educated at New Ipswich Academy, and fitted for college by Mr. Willard, the minister at Boxboro. A graduate of Harvard, class of 1796. After studying law with Hon. Timothy Bigelow, of Groton, and Hon. Simeon Strong, of Amherst, he settled in Concord, in 1800, where he gained a brilliant reputation at the bar. He resigned from the Senate, of which he was a member from 1808 to 1812, to accept a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the Ninth Regiment, Continental Infantry, in the war of 1812. He died suddenly at Sacketts Falls, N. Y., July 23, 1813, at the age of thirty-nine years. It is supposed that he was poisoned by miscreants who hoped to obtain a large sum of money belonging to the United States, thought to be in his possession. When the United States government sued the executor of his estate to recover for the money missing, Hon. Samuel Hoar set up as a defense that Colonel Tuttle was robbed and murdered, which the verdict of the jury sustained. While his death was not as heroic as though he had fallen on the field of battle, still his life was sacrificed in the service of his country. He was Worshipful Master of Corinthian Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Concord in 1807 and '08.

Hon. John Keyes, of Concord, 1813 to 1837 (24 years).



He was born in Westford March 24, 1787, and graduated at Dartmouth in 1809. He rode on horseback from his home to Hanover, N. H., and then sold his horse to obtain the money with which to pay his board and tuition. He graduated second in a class of which the distinguished lawyer and statesman, Levi



JOHN KEYES, OF CONCORD
County Treasurer 1813 to 1837.

Woodbury, was the first scholar. He studied law with John Abbott, of Westford, who was afterwards noted as Grand Master of Masons in the dark days of 1831. He was Postmaster of Concord from 1812 to 1831; a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820; a Representative in 1821 and 1822; a Senator from 1823 to 1829, also again in the House as Representative from 1832 to 1833, and in 1835 serving as speaker pro-tem during most of the session. While his public service was lengthy and distinguished, he suffered materially in his political relations through the unreasonable calumny which assailed all faithful members of the "craft" during the crusades of the anti-Masonic period, losing the office of Treasurer, after twenty-four years of faithful service, to the anti-Masonic candidate. He served as Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge from 1824 to 1826, and Senior Grand Warden in 1827 and 1828. He was a man of sterling integrity, of dignified presence, and excellent business judgment, the latter being evident in the size of his estate, which was one of the largest ever administered upon in Middlesex County up to that date. He was a Director in the Concord Bank and in the Mill Dam Corporation, a Trustee of the Middlesex Savings Institution, and President of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He died August 29, 1844, aged fifty-seven years.

Stedman Buttrick, of Concord, 1837 to 1855 (18 Years).

Stedman Buttrick

Born there September 16, 1796. He was a member of the Buttrick family renowned for patriotism in the Revolutionary period. He was a Selectman several years and Town Clerk from 1842 to 1851, and represented the town of Concord in 1836-37-38 and '39 as a Democrat and anti-Mason. He was also the candidate of the anti-Masonic party for County Treasurer, defeating his fellow townsman, John Keyes. He resided upon the estate and cultivated the very ground from which Major John Buttrick, his grandfather, gave the order which fired "the shot heard 'round the world." Three of his sons, true to their ancestry, were in the Civil



STEDMAN BUTTRICK, OF CONCORD.
County Treasurer 1837 to 1855.
(See page 137.)

war; one of them died in the service, having previously fought for the cause of freedom under John Brown, in Kansas. Stedman Buttrick was a man of splendid physique, and a striking example of the sterling qualities of mind and body which characterized the yeomanry of Middlesex county. In youth he was fond of hunting and fishing, and in later years of a good game of whist. His last words, so it is said, were: "What's trumps?" He died November 7, 1874, aged seventy-eight years.



AMOS STONE, OF EVERETT.
County Treasurer 1855 to 1886.

Amos Stone, of Charlestown and Everett, 1855 to 1886 (31 years).

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Amos Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Stone". The signature is enclosed within a large, irregular oval shape.

Born in Weare, N. H., August 16, 1816. He came to Charlestown when eight years of age, and was educated in the public schools of that town. When Charlestown became a city he was elected Treasurer, and held the office from 1847 to 1855. During the latter year he was elected Treasurer of the County of Middlesex, and so continued until 1886, declining a further election. His family was noted in public affairs; one of the brothers being Mayor of Charlestown, both of them vigorously opposing annexation as a scheme to swallow up that historic municipality and make it simply an outlying ward of the City of Boston, and a football for designing politicians. After the County of Middlesex was obliged to submit to the dismemberment of the territory made famous by its colonial settlers and fighting yeomanry, Amos Stone moved to Everett, where he was prominent in local affairs. During many years he was President and Treasurer of the Five Cents Savings Bank, and President of the Monument National Bank, two highly successful institutions of Charlestown. He died February 13, 1896, aged eighty years.



JOSEPH ORLIN HAYDEN, OF SOMERVILLE.
County Treasurer 1886 to date.

Joseph Orlin Hayden, of Somerville, 1886 to date (19 years).

JO Hayden

Born in Blandford, Mass., July 8, 1847. He was educated in the public schools of Blandford and Chicopee and the academy at Granville. At seventeen years of age, following the advice of Horace Greeley, he went West, where he performed clerical service for a time, finally becoming interested in a newspaper in Minneapolis, Minn. In 1868 he came to Somerville. From that date until 1876 he was manager of the Boston Daily and Sunday Times, when he accepted the management of the Somerville Journal, and has so continued until the present time. During several years he was President of the Somerville Water Board and of the Suburban Press Association, until he declined re-election. At the present time he is President of a highly prosperous financial institution, the Somerville National Bank. The systematic details introduced into the management of the treasury department by Mr. Hayden have been recommended by the Controller of County Accounts for adoption by County Treasurers throughout the Commonwealth.

N. B. It is worthy of note that but 14 persons have served as County Treasurers, covering a period of 250 years. It is also interesting to gather from the foregoing that Hon. Richard Russell served the colony and county 10 years, his son, Hon. James Russell, served the county 9 years, his grandson, Hon. Daniel Russell, served 54 years, and his great-grandson, Hon. James Russell, served 13 years to the Revolutionary period, in all a family service of 86 years, 76 of which was consecutive. It is doubtful if anything approaching this extended period can be found in the annals of official service in any department of this or any other Commonwealth, when applied to so important a position, except in the family of Francis Foxcroft elsewhere mentioned, which served through father, sons and grandsons, in different official positions, an aggregate of 94 years! It seems to indicate that the people of ancient Middlesex were loth to discard the services of a faithful public servant until death or disability intervened.—[Ed.]

THE BEADLE AND MARSHAL-GENERAL.

The Beadle was the earliest officer known in colonial times charged with duties similar to those of court officers of the present day. The position of Marshal-General was analagous to that of High Sheriff. This officer administered the extreme penalties of the law upon such as were found guilty and duly sentenced. Previous to the appointment of Sheriffs, the Marshal-General acted throughout the colony.

James Penn, of Boston, 1630 to 1637 (7 years).

James Penn.

Came over with Winthrop. At the first session of the Assistants on board the Governor's ship, Arbella, in Charlestown harbor, he was chosen Beadle, "to attend upon the Governor and alwaies be ready to execute his commands in publique businesses." He took the oath of office at the second session, September 7, 1630.* He was chosen by the General Court as "Marshal-General of the Court" September 25, 1634. He was Representative in 1648 and 1649. In spiritual matters he was undoubtedly a man of great piety, being for many years a ruling elder of the church. He died September 30, 1671.

*"First Court of Assistants, holden att Charlton" August 23, 1630. "It was ordered, that James Pen should have 20 nobles p ann, & a "dayes worke of a man att springe from eny able famly, to help build "his house, his yeare to begin the 1th of September nexte. His im- "ployemt to be as a beadle to attend upon the Gounr, and alwaies to be "ready to execute his comands in publique businesses."

At the 2nd Court September 7 "James Pen did now take the oath of beadle."

The foregoing is a copy of the original record.—[Ed.]

Edward Mitchellsonn, of Cambridge, 1637 to 1681 (44 years).

*Edward Mitchellsonn^{sr}
Marshall 1653*

He came over in 1635, and was appointed Marshal-General in 1637, holding the office until his death, a period of forty-four years. During that extended period he was charged with the sad duty of executing the unfortunate Quakers persecuted for "conscience sake." He was a member of the A. H. A. Company, 1638. In the year 1668 the court passed an order directing that in lieu of fees he be paid out of the "Country Treasury the sum of fifty pounds per annum to provide for so ancient a servant of this court some comfortable maintainance." He died March 1, 1681.

John Green, of Cambridge, 1681 to 1687 and from 1689 to 1691 (8 years).

*John Green. Marshall
Govrall 1682.*

Born there in June, 1636. He was an only son of Percival, who came over in 1635 on the "Susan and Ellen." John Green married a daughter of Edward and Ruth (Bushell) Mitchellsonn. He succeeded Mitchellsonn as Marshal-General, holding the office ten years, except during the Andros administration in 1687 to 1689, when he was superseded by Samuel Gookin. In 1689 he was reappointed. He died March 3, 1690-91, aged fifty-five years. See note.

Samuel Gookin, of Cambridge, 1687 to 1689 (2 years).

He was a son of Major-General Daniel Gookin, and is noted below as a Sheriff of Middlesex County. He appears to have served under Andros in 1687 and '88, being superseded by John Green as above.

Note. Dr. Samuel A. Green, ex-mayor of Boston and noted as an historian, is a direct descendant of John Green.—[Ed.]

SHERIFFS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

The office of Sheriff comes down through the remotest antiquity of County history in the mother country, some authorities tracing it back to the Romans. In the government of this colony, it was adopted some time after the organization of counties in 1643.

Capt. Timothy Phillips, of Charlestown, 1692 to 1702 (10 years).

Tim^o Phillips

Born September 15, 1658. He was without doubt the first Sheriff of Middlesex county succeeding the Andros period. He was the son of Henry, of Dedham. Admitted to the church in 1687. Constable of Charlestown the same year. His business appears to have been that of a landlord or common-victualler. Judge Sewall in his diary, Vol. I.-150, under date of March 24, 1696, says that he "dined with Sheriff Phillips and wife and Mr. Phips and wife" (presumably Samuel Phipps, who was County Clerk and both Register of Deeds and Probate). Sheriff Phillips died May 1, 1712, aged fifty-three years.

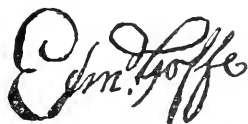
Capt. Samuel Gookin, of Cambridge, 1702 to 1714 (12 years).

Sam Gookin *Sam^l Gookin Jun^r
Und^r Sheriff 1702*

Born April 22, 1652. Noted above as a son of Major-General Daniel Gookin, a friend of the "praying Indians," of John Eliot's time. He was not only Marshal-General of the colony

for a brief period, but was a Captain of Militia in 1692 and active in the Indian troubles. He also raised troops in 1711 for an expedition to Canada. In 1687 he was appointed a Sheriff of Middlesex, under Andros, whom he ardently supported. In addition to his term of twelve years he was again appointed in 1718 and served until 1729. Of his ability there can be but one opinion, but in many ways he appears to have lacked discretion. His service of two terms of twelve years each as Sheriff is sufficient evidence that the authorities forgave his zeal and friendship for the despised Andros. He died September 26, 1730, aged seventy-eight years. See note.

Col. Edmund Goffe, of Cambridge, 1714 to 1717 (3 years).



Born 1670. Graduated from Harvard in 1690. Selectman, 1717 and '18. Representative 1716 to 1721. Colonel in 1721, and engaged against the Indians. He was a very able business man and accumulated a large estate, but towards the close of his life became of unsound mind as appears by a report of the Selectmen, June 11, 1740, on which he was committed to "Gaol," where he survived but four months. During the time of his mental troubles the records show that his property was largely dissipated and his estate was rendered insolvent thereby. He died October 16, 1740, aged seventy years.

Samuel Gookin, 1717 to 1729 (12 years).

See above.

Note. Samuel Gookin, a son of above, who was born August 14, 1683, and died in 1767, was appointed Deputy Sheriff by his father in 1702, when 19 years of age, and appears to have served as such until about the time of his death at 84 years of age, a period of about 65 years.

Samuel Dummer, of Wilmington, 1729 to 1731 (2 years).

A cursive signature of the name "Dummer" in black ink, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Born in Boston in 1690. He was the second son of Jeremiah Dummer, a prominent silversmith of Boston, who was a son of Richard, of Newbury, noted for his wealth and public spirit. Jeremiah was also a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1702 to 1715. One of his (Samuel's) brothers was William Dummer, Acting Governor of the colony for many years, and the other was Jeremiah, agent of the colonial government in England, and one of the most brilliant men of his day. Dr. Chauncy wrote of him as being "one of the three first sons of New England," and Bancroft said his writings contained "the seed of American Independence." Samuel was born in the Dummer mansion, which stood near the corner of State and Congress streets. In early life he appears to have lived in Jamaica. On his return he settled in Wilmington, where he cultivated with slave labor an extensive estate. He had a mania for purchasing farms and at one time had several hundred acres in that vicinity, which probably were not specially remunerative, as he became financially embarrassed and parted with most of them in 1731. In 1730 as "a Principal Inhabitant of Wilmington" he was ordered by the General Court to warn the inhabitants to meet in Town Meeting and elect Town Officers. He died February 6, 1738, aged forty-eight years, leaving a widow, Elisabeth, who was a daughter of the venerable Samuel Ruggles, minister of Billerica more than half a century. A few days after the death of her husband she gave birth to a posthumous daughter, who lived about three years. In the settlement of her husband's estate appears the following interesting item, "Paid Elisabeth Dummer" (the widow and mother) "for the lying in of a posthumous child Twenty Pounds!" This singular charge was allowed by the Judge. Samuel Dummer's appointment as Sheriff came from his brother, but he does not appear to have been at all active in the discharge of the duties of his office, and he was soon superseded. He lies buried in the ancient cemetery in Wilmington.

Hon. Richard Foster, Jr., of Charlestown, 1731 to 1764 (33 years).

Rich^d Foster Jun^r

Born March 23, 1693. His official career was longer than that of any sheriff who has ever held the position in Middlesex, covering a period of one-third of a century. His special preparation for the duties of an office, in which he must have been exceedingly competent, was unusual, and has never been duplicated, as he followed the sea in the early part of his life and was finally advanced to the command of a vessel, which certainly gave him little time to devote to the study of public affairs. From 1764 to 1771 he was Judge of the Inferior Court. He died August, 1774, aged eighty-two years.

Col. David Phips, of Charlestown, 1764 to 1775 (10 years).

David Phips Sheriff

Born September 25, 1724. Graduated from Harvard in 1741. A Representative in 1753 and Colonel in the Militia. Being a Royalist and adhering to the cause of the King, his estate was confiscated, and he fled to England, where he died July 7, 1811, aged eighty-seven.

Col. James Prescott, of Groton, 1775 to 1781 (6 years).

James Prescott Sheriff

Born there of a noted family of patriots, January 13, 1720-1. He was a member of the First, Second, and Third Provincial



COLONEL LOAMMI BALDWIN, OF WOBURN.
Sheriff 1781 to 1794.



PORTRAIT AND ORGAN OF OLIVER HOLDEN, F. THOMAS, WIL.
Composer of "Coronation." (See page 36.)
From the collection of the "Bostonian Society."



GENERAL WILLIAM HILDRETH, JR., OF CONCORD.

Sheriff 1808 to 1813. (See page 151.)

From Concord collection of historic portraits. Not vouched for, but supposed to be authentic.—[L. S. G.]

Congresses, and of the Board of War; of the Governor's Council in 1781, '82 and '83; of the General Court 1766 to 1775 and from 1777 to 1778. He was a Senator in 1780, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas to his death, which occurred February 15, 1800, at the age of eighty years. He was of the steadfast yeomanry of Ancient Middlesex.

Colonel Loammí Baldwin, of Woburn, 1781 to 1794 (13 years).

A soldier of the Revolution, mentioned elsewhere.

Major Joseph Hosmer, of Concord, 1794 to 1808 (14 years).

Joseph Hosmer Sheriff

Born December 25, 1735. He was an officer of militia in 1775, and acting Adjutant at the Concord fight, it being his duty to form the squads and companies into line as they arrived at the North Bridge. He was Captain of the Concord Light Infantry in 1780, and afterwards Major. He was Representative in 1780, '81, '83 and '84, Senator, 1785 to 1793, and member of the Constitutional Convention, 1788. He died January 31, 1821, aged eighty-five years.

General William Hildreth, Jr., of Concord, 1808 to 1813 (5 years).

Wm Hildreth Sheriff

Born in Draut, November 16, 1757. A member of the Society of the Cincinnati. A soldier and patriot of the Revolutionary period, who marched as a minuteman at the Lexington alarm.



MAJOR JOSEPH HOSMER, OF CONCORD.
Sheriff 1794 to 1808.
(See page 151.)

His father, William Hildreth, of Dracut, prominent in public affairs, was elected by the General Court, February 7, 1776, as First Major in Colonel Spalding's Seventh Middlesex Regiment, but with extreme modesty declined the honor, replying that he was "conscious of not being qualified for that important post." The subject of this sketch served throughout the Revolution, first as a private in Captain Zaccheus Wright's Company, Colonel Brooks' Massachusetts Regiment, afterwards in Colonel Michael Jackson's Regiment of the Continental army, winning promotion to First Lieutenant, in which position he was returned as late as May 24, 1783. He was Representative from 1795 to 1800, and Senator from 1801 to 1807. His military title of General came from his connection with the Massachusetts militia. He died in Concord September 5, 1813, aged fifty-six years. He was a lineal descendant of Richard Hildreth, 1605-1688, first of Woburn and afterwards of Chelmsford, who was admitted a freeman May 10, 1643. In some way, perhaps in battle, he lost the use of his right hand, in recognition of which he was granted 150 acres of land in 1664. He was the common ancestor of all of the name in Dracut and Lowell, constituting an able, patriotic, and influential family.

General Nathaniel Austin, Jr., of Charlestown, 1813 to 1831 (18 years).

Nath Austin Jr.

Born there March 19, 1772. He was Representative in 1812 and 1831, and again in 1838; a Senator from 1832 to 1835, and a member of the Governor's Council in 1836. He was Brigadier-General, Third Division Massachusetts Militia, and a bridge Commissioner for many years. He executed "Mike Martin," the "gentleman" highwayman, hanged for robbing Major Bray on the Medford turnpike. He was a very energetic, able, and useful citizen. He died a bachelor April 3, 1861, aged eighty-nine years.



GENERAL NATHANIEL AUSTIN, JR., OF CHARLESTOWN.
Sheriff 1813 to 1831.
(See page 153.)



COLONEL SAMUEL CHANDLER, OF LEXINGTON.
Sheriff 1841 to 1851.
(See page 157.)



FISHER AMES HILDRETH. OF LOWELL.
Sheriff 1851 to 1853.

Benjamin Franklin Varnum, of Dracut, 1831 to 1841 (10 years).

See County Commissioners.

Colonel Samuel Chandler, of Lexington, 1841 to 1851 (10 years).

*Saml. Chandler. 1841.
Sheriff of Middlesex.*

Born there October 26, 1795. He enlisted in the War of 1812, going to the front as an ensign. After two severe engagements on the Canadian frontier he was promoted to the position of First Lieutenant. At the close of the war he was appointed Major of the Third Regiment Massachusetts Militia and Colonel from 1827 to 1834. He was Major-General from 1835 to 1839, Captain A. H. A. Company 1836, and Senator in 1839. He was Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Lexington in 1827 and 1828. He died July 20, 1867, aged seventy-two years.

Fisher Ames Hildreth, of Lowell, 1851 to 1853 (2 years).

Fisher A. Hildreth.

Born in Dracut February 5, 1818. Appointed High Sheriff by Governor Boutwell. A member of the Legislature in 1843 and '44, and Postmaster of Lowell during the administrations of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. He was very prominent as a journalist and had the tact of money-making to a marked degree, as evidenced by the size of the estate he left to be administered upon. He died July 2, 1873, aged fifty-five years.



HON. JOHN SHEPARD KEYES, OF CONCORD.
Sheriff 1853 to 1859.
(See page 161.)



CHARLES KIMBALL, OF LOWELL.
Sheriff 1859 to 1879.
(See page 161.)



EBEN WINSLOW FISKE, OF WALTHAM.
Sheriff 1879 to 1883.

Hon. John Shepard Keyes, of Concord, 1853 to 1859 (6 years).

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. Keyes". The signature features a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the beginning and a decorative tail at the end.

Born there September 19, 1821. Son of Hon. John Keyes, a distinguished citizen of Concord. A graduate of Harvard in 1841. He was a member of the Senate in 1849 and United States Marshal for the district of Massachusetts from 1861 to 1866. In 1874 he was appointed Justice of the District Court of Central Middlesex, a position which he now occupies with grace, dignity, and ability, at the advanced age of four score years and three.

Charles Kimball, of Lowell, 1859 to 1879 (20 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles Kimball". The signature is written in a fluid, slightly slanted cursive style.

Born in Littleton September 23, 1811. On November 30, 1840, he was appointed writing master of the Boylston school on Fort Hill, Boston, serving in that capacity until promoted to the position of head master. He remained with this school nearly nineteen years, when he resigned to accept the office of Sheriff, to which he had been elected, serving in said office until the day of his death, a period of twenty years. He was Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., in 1872.

Eben Winslow Fiske, of Waltham, 1879 to 1883 (4 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eben W. Fiske". The signature is written in a fluid, slightly slanted cursive style.

Born in Framingham October 22, 1819. When twenty-one years of age he settled in Waltham and worked at his trade of



HENRY GREENWOOD CUSHING, OF LOWELL.
Sheriff 1883 to 1899.

harness maker for several years. He was constable from 1847 to 1851 and Deputy Sheriff from 1851 to 1879, twenty-eight years, when he was appointed by the Governor as Sheriff to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Sheriff Kimball. Subsequently elected by the people, he served in this office until his death. In the town of Waltham he was a coroner, member of the water board, chairman of the board of assessors, and moderator at town meetings for many years. He was also a justice of the peace and deputy collector of internal revenue. In politics, an active and consistent Republican, and altogether a useful citizen who formed strong ties of friendship and public confidence. He died August 27, 1883, aged sixty-four years.

Henry Greenwood Cushing, of Lowell, 1883 to 1899 (16 years.)

Henry G. Cushing
Sheriff

Born in Abington, October 8, 1831. He was educated in the public schools of his native town and at Willbraham Academy. He commenced his business career as a shoe manufacturer in Abington, from which town he went West, and settling in Chicago, was conducting an extensive dry goods establishment there at the time of the great fire. Returning East and settling in Lowell he was Deputy Sheriff from 1875 to 1879; special Sheriff from 1879 to 1883, when he was appointed Sheriff to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Sheriff Fiske. He was elected by the people and served to the day of his death. A veteran of the Civil war, having served as First Lieutenant of Eighth New Hampshire Volunteers. He was also assigned to duty on the staff of Major-General W. T. Sherman. A member of the Loyal Legion, G. A. R., and the Masonic fraternity. Died in Lowell, June 9, 1899, aged sixty-five years.



JOHN ROBERT FAIRBAIRN, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Sheriff 1899 to date.

John Robert Fairbairn, of Cambridge, 1899 to date.

John R. Fairbairn
Sheriff

Born in Boston January 26, 1851, of Scotch ancestry. His father, John Fairbairn, was born near Glasgow, and served eleven years in the Forty-Second Regiment Scottish Highlanders before emigrating to America. Shortly after the birth of the son, the family moved to Cambridge, where the subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools. At an early age he was apprenticed to the upholstery trade, at which he worked several years as a journeyman after completing his term of service. In 1874 he established himself in East Cambridge as an auctioneer and dealer in real estate, in which he was successful. He was appointed Deputy Sheriff in 1884. In 1889 he was a member of the Common Council of the City of Cambridge, and in 1890, '91, '92, '93, '95, and '96, one of the Board of Aldermen, serving as President in 1893, '95, and '96. In June, 1896, he succeeded the late John M. Fiske as keeper of the jail, master of the house of correction, and Special Sheriff. June 22, 1899, after the death of Sheriff Cushing, he was appointed Sheriff to fill the vacancy, and subsequently elected by the people to the present date. He is connected with the Masonic fraternity in Cambridge, being a member of the lodge, chapter, council, and commandery.

CLERKS OF COURT OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

Deputy Gov. Thomas Danforth, of Cambridge, 1649 to 1686 (37 years).

1655.
Thomas Danforth Recorder. &

He was the first Clerk or Recorder of ancient Middlesex of which we have any real, or rather official, knowledge, as he seems to have commenced his career in that capacity by recording the doings of a "County Cort held at Cambridge, October 30 [1649]." The first action tried in this court was "Increase Nowell vs. John Martine." As Middlesex County was incorporated May 10, 1643, it must be admitted that an hiatus existed during the six years preceding this first entry which as yet remains unaccounted for. Mr. Danforth was born in Framlingham, Suffolk, England, in 1622, and came to Cambridge in 1634, where he became one of the wealthiest and most distinguished men of Middlesex. Connected with his mansion was an estate of 120 acres in the very heart of the town, a portion of which is now occupied by college buildings. He also owned about 16,000 acres, which included most of the area of the present towns of Framingham and Ashland, and portions of Sherborn, Cordaville, and Southville. He was the son of Rev. Nicholas Danforth, an eminent English Puritan. That he was a man of remarkable character, wonderful energy, and superior abilities may be inferred from the broad range of his public services during a career of more than fifty years. He was Town Clerk of Cambridge from 1645 to 1668, inclusive, twenty-four years; Selectman, twenty-seven years; Deputy to the General Court, one year; Assistant, nineteen years; Deputy Governor of the colony, twelve years; one of the Council, six years; Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature, seven years; Treasurer of Middlesex County, three years; Clerk of Courts, from 1649 to 1686, thirty-seven years; Register of Deeds, thirty-seven years; Commissioner of the

United Colonies, sixteen years; President of that board, three years; President of the District of Maine, eleven years; and Treasurer of Harvard College from 1650 to 1669, nineteen years. He was a leader of the earliest party in America opposed to the encroachments of the crown, which made him a candidate for Governor against the noted Royalist, Simon Bradstreet, whom he almost succeeded in defeating, there being but a handful of votes between them. December 27, 1659, the Court fixed his salary at £6 13s 4d for the year!

He was also (with Major-General Daniel Gookin) a firm friend of the "Apostle" Eliot, and gave him all possible assistance in his labors among the praying Indians, especially while popular clamor against them was at its height in 1675, for which he was posted and threatened with death by an infuriated and unreasoning populace. He continued to hold the office of Clerk of "Courts," however, long years after these happenings. His death occurred November 5, 1699, aged seventy-seven. He left no descendants in the male line. Such was the character of his public services, and such was the high standard set up by the first Clerk of Courts of ancient Middlesex 256 years ago; history will bear witness to the fact that it has never been lowered by any of his successors.

Capt. Laurence Hammond, of Charlestown, 1686 to 1689 (3 years).

Laure Hammond Records

Town Clerk, 1672 and '73; Selectman, Representative, 1672-'77, Captain train-band and Lieutenant A. H. A. Company. He was a supporter of Andros, and on account of his loyalty was deprived of his command in the train-band, after the Governor was deposed. He was Register of Deeds and of Probate. At the expiration of more than two centuries his handwriting still remains clear, distinct, and beautiful, in wonderful contrast with the abominable chirography of early days. Died in Boston July 25, 1699.

Capt. Samuel Phipps, of Charlestown, 1689 to 1723 (34 years).

Sam^l. Phipps Record

Born about 1651. Graduated from Harvard in 1671. Constable, against his will, 1686. Town Treasurer, 1687-88. Town Clerk, 1688. Constable again, 1689-92. Captain of Militia, 1704, 1712, and an Assessor of Charlestown many years, besides being in 1700 Commissioner of Claims for the province of Maine. He was a school teacher in Charlestown from 1674-1684. He was Selectman 1687, 1697, 1701 to 1704, 1706, 1707, 1709, 1711 to 1714 and 1716. Representative, 1692, 1695, 1697, 1699 to 1705, 1707 to 1711, and 1712. He was Register of Probate, 1692 to 1702. Register of Deeds April 10, 1693, to April 11, 1721, and Clerk of Courts from October 1, 1689, to July 9, 1723. He was succeeded in the office of Clerk by his son, Samuel Phipps, Jr., who was sworn in October 8, 1723. His active and honorable career closed August 7, 1725, aged about seventy-four years.

Samuel Phipps, Jr., of Charlestown, 1723 to 1735 (12 years).

Sam Phipps Clerk

Born February 10, 1684. Son of Samuel First. Not much is known of him, save that he succeeded his father as Clerk, being sworn in October 8, 1723. He served until March 9, 1735, when Thaddeus Mason came in and commenced his extended official career.

Thaddeus Mason, of Cambridge, 1735 to 1790 (55 years).

Thad Mason Reg^r

Born in Charlestown December 27, 1706. Graduated from Harvard in 1728, and commenced his career by teaching school

in Woodstock, Conn. He was a descendant in the second generation from Captain Hugh Mason, the emigrant, who settled in Watertown in 1634-5. He was a sufferer by the bombardment of Charlestown, his house being burned by the British in the general conflagration. After that event he lived at various times in Stoneham, Lexington, Medford, and Cambridge. He was private secretary to Governor Belcher, Deputy Naval Officer in 1731, Deputy Secretary Province, 1731, Register of Deeds, 1781 to 1781. Clerk of Courts fifty-five years, remaining in office until eighty-four years of age. He was an energetic, faithful, and efficient officer, who outlived every contemporary, surviving almost to the century mark. He died May 1, 1802, aged ninety-six years.

Abraham Bigelow, of Cambridge, 1790 to 1831 (41 years).



Born in Weston September 18, 1762. Graduated from Harvard in 1782. Member Constitutional Convention, 1788, Presidential Elector, 1812. He practiced successfully as a lawyer. Through his father, Abraham, a Representative, Selectman, etc., of Weston, born in Marlboro March 5, 1713, he was a descendant in the fifth generation from John Biglo, a blacksmith of Watertown, and Mary Warren, whose marriage in 1642 was the first one recorded in that town. It is claimed that Mary came over with her father, John Warren, in the Governor Winthrop party, and it is also established to the satisfaction of many investigators that this humble Puritan maiden was descended from William the Conqueror. As Clerk of Courts, his term of service was only second to that of his predecessor, commencing in 1790, and extending to 1831, a period of forty-one years. His descendants are able and distinguished to the present generation. He died in New York city July 6, 1832, aged seventy.



ABRAHAM BIGELOW, OF WESTON AND CAMBRIDGE.

Clerk of Courts 1790 to 1831 — 41 years.

From a silhouette in the possession of Albert S. Bigelow, of Boston.



ELIAS PHINNEY, OF LEXINGTON.

Clerk of Courts 1831 to 1849.

From a painting in the possession of George B. Phinney, Esq., Fort Scott, Kan.

(See page 172).

Elias Phinney, of Lexington, 1831 to 1849 (18 years).

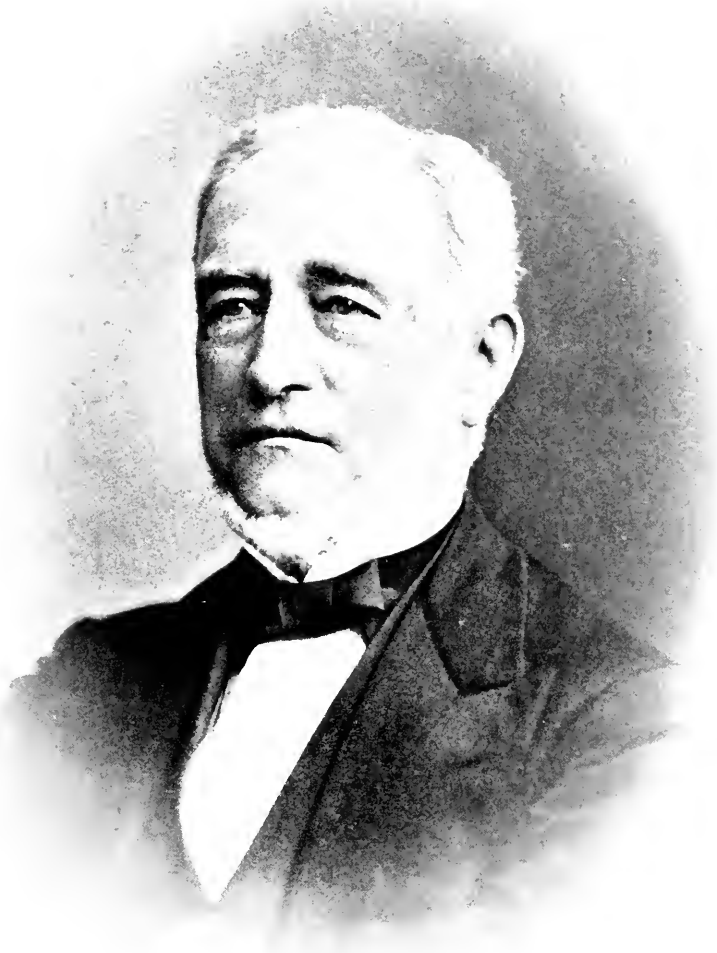
E. Phinney

Born in Nova Scotia, 1780. Graduated from Harvard in 1801. He was a practicing lawyer in Charlestown, who was fond of country life and studied practical farming. He became a Trustee of the State Agricultural Society, and was considered an authority on all matters relating to tillage and general husbandry. In 1823 he settled upon a large farm in Lexington, which, under his skilful management, attained a high state of cultivation, and became distinguished as a prominent example of the farmer's art. It was his custom to ride from his home in Lexington to the Court House in the old-fashioned "one-horse shay" of our ancestors. He was a man of fine personal appearance and a gentleman of the old school. He died July 24, 1869, aged sixty-nine years.

Hon. Seth Ames, of Lowell, July 30, 1849, to June 23, 1859 (10 years).

Seth Ames
Clerk

Born in Dedham April 19, 1805. Graduated from Harvard in 1825, Representative, 1832, Senator, 1841, Justice of the Superior Court, 1859 to 1869, serving as Chief Justice thereof after 1867. Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court from January 19, 1869, to January 15, 1881. He was greatly distinguished as a lawyer and jurist. Died in Brookline August 15, 1881, aged seventy-six years.



HON. SETH AMES, OF LOWELL.
Clerk of Courts 1849 to 1859.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS GRIFFIN, OF MEDFORD.
Clerk of Courts 1859.

John Quincy Adams Griffin, of Charlestown, Malden and Medford, June 23, 1859, to September 1, 1859 (2 months).



Born in Londonderry, N. H., July 8, 1826. After living a time in Pelham, where he attended the district schools, he went to Groton, Mass., in 1844 at the age of eighteen, where he prepared for college at the Groton academy. In 1846 he entered Amherst College, but did not graduate, having quitted its classic shades, when, as he termed it, "they could learn him nothing more." He was admitted to the Middlesex bar in 1849, and we next find him, in 1850, editing a "Free Soil" paper in Lawrence, although living in Charlestown, being an ardent advocate of the principles enunciated by that party. He was City Solicitor of Charlestown, and an earnest opponent of annexation, Representative in 1855, being "Free Soil" candidate for Speaker, receiving twenty-nine votes, the entire party strength. Moving to Malden he represented that town in 1859 and 1860. It was mainly through his efforts that tolls were abolished between that section of Middlesex county and Boston, conferring a great blessing upon the community. Subsequently he moved to Medford, where he died of pulmonary consumption, May 22, 1866, aged forty years, at the very threshold of a promising career. He served but two months in the office of Clerk of Courts, when he resigned, as methodical office work was not to his liking, and being nervous and excitable to the extreme, he fretted "like a hound in the leash," to be back to the active and strenuous life of his chosen profession, saying to a friend that "had he stayed another month he would have gone crazy!" He seemed to absorb knowledge without apparent effort, and became a worthy antagonist of men of the stamp of Benjamin F. Butler, against whom he was often pitted in court, and upon the forum. In debate he had the fire and courage of John Randolph, in cutting sarcasm the tongue of Wendell Phillips, while his oratorical powers were not only impetuous, but seductive and captivating.



GENERAL JAMES DANA, OF CHARLESTOWN.
Clerk of Courts 1859.

General James Dana, of Charlestown, September 1, 1859, to December 1, 1859 (3 months).

James Dana

Born there November 8, 1811. Graduated from Harvard in 1830. Son of Hon. Samuel Dana of Groton, a distinguished statesman, lawyer and jurist, and the first County Attorney of Middlesex County. General Dana was Mayor of Charlestown, 1858, 1859, 1860. To him was due the introduction of water into that city. Captain Charlestown Light Infantry, Colonel Fourth Regiment, First Brigade Second Division, and Brigadier-General Third Brigade Massachusetts Militia. A lawyer in his native city for many years, associated with Moses G. Cobb, who raised "Cobb's," subsequently "Nims'" battery, which performed valiant service in the Civil war. He moved from Charlestown in 1875, to Dorchester, where he died June 4, 1890, aged seventy-eight years.

Benjamin Franklin Ham, of Natick, December 1, 1859, to January, 1872 (13 years).

B. F. Ham

Born in Farmington, N. H., July 2, 1823. He attended the district school, but at the early age of thirteen was thrown upon his own resources and left home to make his way in the world. He went to Natick and worked at the shoemaker's bench, and while there formed the friendship of Henry Wilson, a fellow mechanic, who in later years was to record his name high in the annals of fame. This intimacy was terminated only upon the death of the vice-president. Gradually improving his mind by study, he became a schoolmaster and taught in and about Natick, and was finally admitted to the bar in 1853. His legal work was so careful and judicial that he was frequently appointed to determine facts for the court as auditor, and his findings were generally acceptable. He was Representative in 1859. Towards the end of his life he became very deaf, and was not often seen in public. He died in Medford May 4, 1893, aged seventy years.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HAM, OF NANTUCKET.
Clerk of Courts 1859 to 1872.
(See page 177.)

Samuel Hilliard Folsom, of Winchester, October 17, 1871 (late Register of Probate).

Was Clerk pro-tem for a brief period.

Lieut. Theodore Clarence Hurd, of Winchester, January 3, 1872, to date (33 years).



Born in Newton January 19, 1837, of patriotic stock. His paternal grandfather, William Hurd, served three years in the Army of the Revolution, and Zibeon Hooker, his maternal grandsire, was one of the charter members of the Society of the Cincinnati, he having served as a drummer boy at Bunker Hill, and afterwards, by promotion, as Major on the staff of General Washington. Emulating the patriotism of his ancestors, Theodore C. Hurd enlisted in Company F, Forty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers, during the Civil War, where he attained the rank of second lieutenant, receiving an honorable discharge at the completion of his term of service. In early life his parents removed to Framingham, where the boy passed through the public schools and the academy there, subsequently graduating from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1856. He studied law at the Harvard Law School, and with Hon. C. C. Esty, of Framingham, and was admitted to the Middlesex bar in 1860. He was a Selectman of Framingham, 1865 to 1870; Representative, 1867-1869-'70 and '71; and Assistant District Attorney from 1865 to 1872. He has been Clerk of Courts since January 3, 1872, a period of thirty-three years. In length of service he stands fifth upon the list, but in the order of succession he bears the fatal numeral of superstition—13. Notwithstanding this cabalistic omen, let us cherish the hope that, for the benefit of those who may follow us, he may remain at his post long after we, who love him so well and whom he honors so much, shall have crossed the fabled river and await his coming to the silent shore.



THEODORE CLARENCE HURD, OF WINCHILTON.
Clerk of Courts 1872 to date.
(See page 179.)



MARSHALL PRESTON, OF LEXINGTON.
Assistant Clerk of Courts May 5, 1851, to March 5, 1863.
(See page 182.)

ASSISTANT CLERKS OF COURT.

Marshall Preston, of Lexington, May 5, 1851, to March 5, 1863
(12 years).

M. Preston

Born in Bedford June 5, 1792. Son of Dr. Amariah Preston of Bedford, who served three years in the War of the Revolution, afterwards practicing medicine with great success, and died in Lexington, aged 96, having been in active practice until almost four score years and ten. Marshall Preston was at Brown University for a time, studied law with his uncle, Warren Preston (Brown University, 1804), in Maine, and was admitted to the bar in Augusta. Lawyer at Billerica from about 1820-1849; Town Clerk at Billerica, 1821-1848; Postmaster at Billerica, 1826-1849; Selectman, Billerica, 1824-1848; House of Representatives from Billerica, 1829-1830. A member of the First Parish Church (Unitarian) at Billerica; also the Old First Parish Church (Unitarian) at Lexington, when he lived there, 1849-1874; also a member of the Masonic Fraternity. He moved from Billerica to Lexington in 1849, where he died November 2, 1874, aged eighty-two years.

John James Sawyer, of Somerville, March 5, 1863, to September 6, 1882 (19 years).

John James Sawyer

Born in Cambridge July 29, 1814. Descended from Elihu Sawyer, who was a Lieutenant in the Revolution, and was with Washington at Valley Forge. John James became infatuated with the ocean in early life, and, in company with the late veteran Clerk of Courts of Suffolk Joseph A. Willard, ran away to sea. He served in the United States Navy throughout the Mexican



JOHN JAMES SAWYER, OF SOMERVILLE.
Assistant Clerk of Courts 1863 to 1882.
(See page 182.)

war. He was a genial, whole-souled sailor. His liberality of disposition and infinite humor gave him great popularity with both the bench and the bar, many of whom delight to recall his quaint sayings and ready wit. In his last sickness he was a great sufferer. He died in Somerville September 8, 1882, aged sixty-eight years.

**John Lee Ambrose, of Somerville (First Assistant Clerk of Courts),
October 2, 1882, to date (22 years).**

John Lee Ambrose.

Born in Center Sandwich, N. H., August 10, 1844. He attended the district and high schools of the town, and on January 18, 1869, entered the office of the Clerk of Courts for Middlesex County, Benjamin F. Ham being then the Clerk. Mr. Ambrose was appointed Second Assistant Clerk of the Courts by Theodore C. Hurd, Esquire, the present Clerk, December 17, 1874, under the provisions of Chapter 181 of the Acts of 1873. On October 2, 1882, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court appointed Mr. Ambrose First Assistant Clerk, which position he now holds. His official record to date since first appointment in 1874 covers a period of thirty years.

**William Clinton Dillingham, of Malden, Second Assistant Clerk
of Courts, 1882 to date (22 years).**

Wm. C. Dillingham.

Born in Charlestown, Mass., March 5, 1848. He is descended from the Vermont branch of the Dillingham family of Colonial times. His parents having moved to Malden, he passed through the public schools of that town, and attended a preparatory school in Boston, afterwards studying law for three years in the office of William C. Greene. In 1875 he was appointed a Deputy Sheriff of Middlesex County, and in 1882 became an As-



JOHN LEE AMBROSE, OF SOMERVILLE.
First Assistant Clerk of Courts 1882 to date.



WILLIAM CLINTON DILLINGHAM, OF MALDEN.
Second Assistant Clerk of Courts 1882 to date.
(See page 184.)



RALPH NATHAN SMITH, OF ARLINGTON.
Third Assistant Clerk of Courts 1896 to date.
(See page 188.)

sistant under Theodore C. Hurd. Later on he was appointed Second Assistant Clerk of Courts, a position which he now occupies.

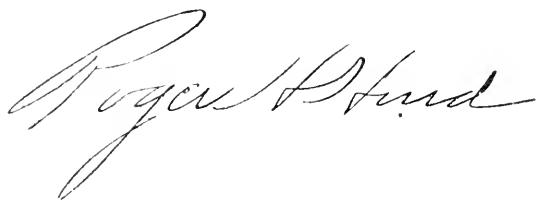
Ralph Nathan Smith, of Arlington, Third Assistant Clerk of Courts, 1896 to date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph N. Smith". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "R".

Born December 1, 1871, at Worcester, Mass. Attended public school in Worcester until 1883. Afterwards lived in Templeton, Mass., and graduated from Templeton High school in class of 1888. Attended Becker's private school in Worcester for one year.

Assistant bookkeeper and school teacher at Cambridge House of Correction from 1890 to 1893. Appointed Clerk in office of Clerk of Courts, December 1, 1893. Commissioned Third Assistant Clerk of Courts of Middlesex County by Supreme Judicial Court, April 25, 1896, and has held said position to present date.

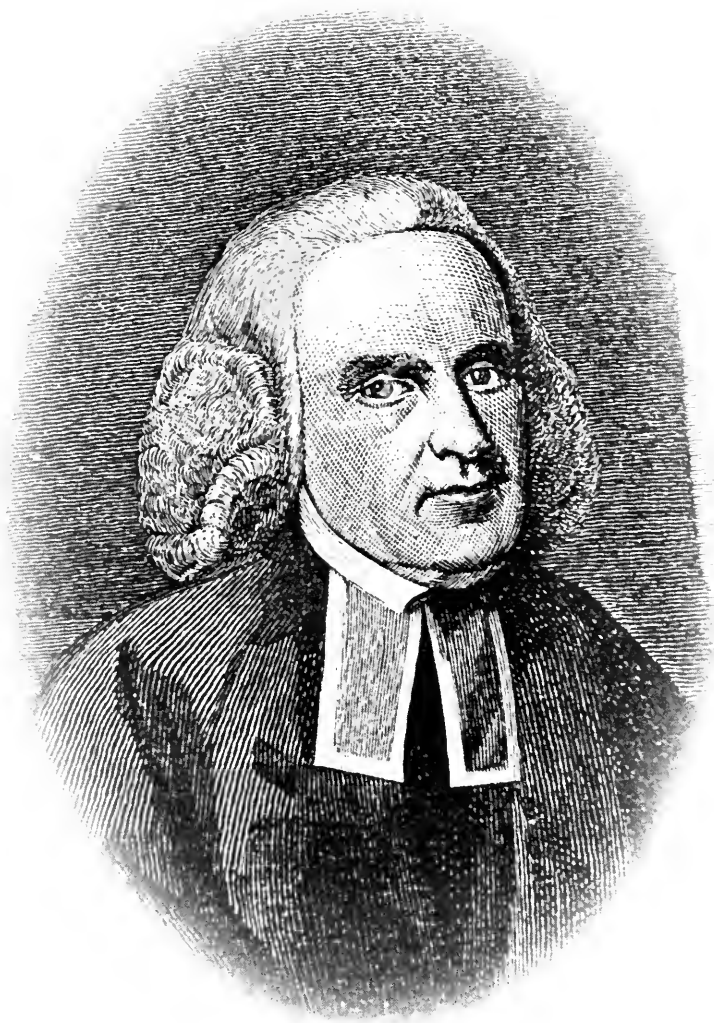
Roger Howard Hurd, of Winchester, Fourth Assistant Clerk of Courts.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roger H. Hurd". The signature is elegant and flowing, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Born at Cambridge, Mass., April 13, 1881, moving to Winchester, Mass., in 1888. He attended the Winchester public schools, leaving the high school in 1898 and entering the Boston Art School in the fall of that year. Since the summer of 1899, he has been employed in the office of Clerk of Courts, being appointed Fourth Assistant Clerk on March 27, 1903.



ROGER HOWARD HURD, OF WINCHESTER.
Fourth Assistant Clerk of Courts March 27, 1903, to date



HON. JOHN WINTHROP, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University, 1736 to 1779.
Judge of Probate 1775 to 1779.
(See page 195.)

JUDGES OF PROBATE (AND OF INSOLVENCY SINCE 1858).

Hon. James Russell, of Charlestown, 1692 to 1702 (10 years).

See Treasurers.

Hon. John Leverett, of Cambridge, 1702 to 1708 (6 years).

John Leverett

Born in Boston August 25, 1662. Graduated from Harvard in 1680. Selectman, 1699 and 1700; Councillor, 1706; Vice Judge Admiralty court; Representative, 1696, 1699, and 1700, and Speaker of the House the latter year. Justice Superior Court 1702 to 1707, President of Harvard College from October 28, 1707, to May 3, 1724, when he was found dead in bed. A man of ability, but a martinet in discipline and disposition, who endeavored to rule every community and institution with which he came in contact. His grandfather was John Leverett, who was Governor, 1672 to 1679. The family mansion of the Leveretts was on the corner of Court and Washington streets, opposite the old State House, Boston. He died in Cambridge, May 3, 1724, aged sixty-two years.

Hon. Francis Foxcroft, the first, of Boston and Cambridge, 1708 to 1725 (17 years).

*Fra Foxcroft Judge of
probate for Middlesex*

Born in England November 13, 1657. Son of Daniel Foxcroft, Mayor of Leeds, England, in 1666. Colonel in the militia and a member of the A. H. A. Company. He was a justice under Andros, and imprisoned for his loyalty in 1689. Representative from Dunstable in 1693. Judge Court of Common Pleas, 1707

to 1719, and Judge Probate, 1708 to 1725. An exceedingly able, influential, and wealthy man. His wife, Elisabeth, was a daughter of Governor Danforth. Francis Foxcroft, the second, Daniel, and Rev. Thomas Foxcroft, all of whom were officers of Middlesex County at various times, were his sons, and he was the grandfather of John, Register of Deeds many years. Through father and sons this family have an official record in this county aggregating eighty-four years, and grandson ten years, showing a service of ninety-four years prior to the Revolution in various offices. Should we add the public services of Francis first, previous to 1708, the aggregate would exceed the century mark. He died in Cambridge December 31, 1727, aged seventy years.

Hon. Jonathan Remington, of Cambridge, 1725 to 1745 (20 years).

Jon.^d Remington 1740

Born, 1677. Graduated from Harvard in 1696. Selectman Cambridge, 1712 and 1715 to 1719. Representative twelve years between 1714 and 1728. Councillor, 1730 to 1740. Judge Court Common Pleas 1729 to 1745. Died September 30, 1745, aged sixty-eight years.

Hon. Samuel Danforth, of Cambridge, 1745 to 1775 (30 years).

Sam.^l Danforth

Born in Dorchester November 12, 1696. Graduated from Harvard in 1715. Selectman Cambridge, 1733 to 1739. Representative 1734 to 1738. Councillor thirty-six years, 1739 to 1774. Justice Peace, Register Probate, 1731-1745. Judge Court Com-



HON. SAMUEL PHILLIPS PRESCOTT FAY, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Judge of Probate 1821 to 1856.
(See page 190.)



HON. WILLIAM ADAMS RICHARDSON, OF LOWELL.
Judge of Probate 1856 to 1872.
(See page 199.)

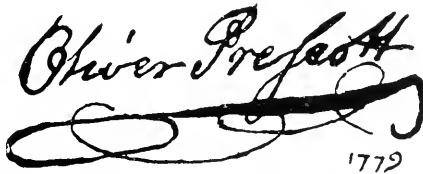
mon Pleas, 1741 to 1745. Being a Royalist he ceased to hold office after the outbreak of the Revolution. Died in Boston October 27, 1777, aged eighty-one years.

Professor John Winthrop, of Cambridge, 1775 to 1779 (4 years).



Born December 19, 1714. Graduated from Harvard in 1732. A descendant in the fourth generation from Governor John Winthrop. Representative, 1774, Councillor, 1773, '75, and '76. He was the foremost mathematician and philosopher of his generation in America; a Fellow of the Royal Society, and Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy in Harvard from 1738 until his death. He died in 1779, aged sixty-five years.

Hon. Oliver Prescott, M. D., of Groton, 1779 to 1805 (26 years.)



Born April 27, 1731, son of Benjamin Prescott, a blacksmith, who came to Groton in 1680, having had land granted him. Graduated from Harvard in 1750 with highest honors. He was a public-spirited citizen, and patriot to the very core. Town Clerk thirteen years, and Selectman thirty-two years. He was Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier and Major-General of Militia, before and after the Revolution. President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, President of Board of Trustees, Groton Academy, and a fellow of the American Society of Arts and Sciences. During many years he was the most prominent physician in Northern Middlesex. He died in office November 17, 1804, aged seventy-three years.

Hon. James Prescott, of Groton, 1805 to 1821 (16 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Prescott". The letters are fluidly connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Prescott".

Born April 19, 1766. Son of Colonel James Prescott. Graduated from Harvard in 1788. He was a fine scholar, but possessed of an irascible and unfortunate temper, which involved him in many difficulties which should have been avoided. He was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas six years from June 3, 1805. After serving sixteen years as Judge of Probate, he was impeached by the House in 1821, tried by the Senate, and removed from office on charges which involved no questions of integrity or moral turpitude. This trial was one of the most famous in the annals of the General Court. Webster and other great lawyers participated in it. He died October 14, 1829, aged sixty-three years.

Hon. Samuel Phillips Prescott Fay, of Cambridge, 1821 to 1856 (35 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel P. Fay". The signature is highly stylized, with elaborate flourishes and a large, decorative loop at the bottom.

Born in Concord May 10, 1778. Graduated from Harvard in 1798. Appointed a captain in the American army, organized to resist a threatened invasion of the French in 1798. Representative, 1808-9-10-11-12-15-16-17 and 1820. Member of the Governor's Council, 1818-19, and of the Constitutional Convention of 1820. He was Grand Master of Masons in 1820. Overseer Harvard College, 1825 to 1852. Died in Cambridge May 18, 1856, aged seventy-eight years.



HON. GEORGE M. BROOKS, OF CONCORD.

Judge of Probate 1872 to 1893.

From a painting by Bicknell. (See page 199.)



HON. CHARLES JOHN McINTIRE, OF CAMBRIDGE.
First Judge of Probate and Insolvency 1893 to date.

Hon. William Adams Richardson, of Lowell, 1856 to 1872 (16 years).

William A. Richardson

Born in Tyngsboro November 2, 1821. Graduated from Harvard in 1843. President Wamesit Bank, Lowell. Member Common Council, 1849, '53 and '54, President in the latter years. Member of all the Masonic bodies meeting in Lowell. Secretary United States Treasury, 1873. Chief Justice Court of Claims United States from January 21, 1885. Died in Washington, D. C., October 19, 1896, aged seventy-five years.

Hon. George Merrick Brooks, of Concord, 1872 to 1893 (21 years)

George M. Brooks

Born in Concord of Revolutionary stock, July 26, 1824. Graduated from Harvard in 1844. Representative, 1858; Senator, 1859; Representative in Congress, 1869 to 1871. A lawyer by profession. Died in Concord September 22, 1893, aged sixty-nine years. He was greatly lamented by all classes, especially by the poor and unfortunate, who respected him for his kindness of heart and sympathetic counsel and demeanor.

Hon. Charles John McIntire, of Cambridge, 1893 to date (11 years).

Chas McIntire,
First Judge of Probate Court,
1894.

Born in Cambridge March 26, 1842, and educated in the public schools. Member of the Common Council, 1866-7;

Board of Aldermen, 1877; City Solicitor, 1886; Representative, 1869-'70; Assistant District Attorney three years, 1872 to 1875. A veteran of the Civil war, having served in the Forty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers. Is a member of the G. A. R., and of the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars, by virtue of descent from Ebenezer Mackintire of Charlton, a soldier of colonial times, who was a grandson of Philip Mackintire, a Scotchman from the Highlands of Argyll, who settled in Reading, Mass., in 1666. He is also a descendant of Ensign James Kidder, of the Billerica Company in King Philip's war, and of Nathaniel Sparhawk, of Cambridge, a Representative in the General Court from 1642 to 1647. The great-grandfather of Judge McIntire was Ezra Mackintire, who marched with the Charlton company of minutemen in the days of the Revolution. Judge McIntire is sitting as one of the two Judges of Probate and Insolvency, and bears the title of "First Judge."

Hon. George Field Lawton, of Lowell and Cambridge, 1894 to date (10 years).

Geo. F. Lawton.

Born in Lowell, Mass., October 17, 1845. Attended the public schools of his native city and graduated from Williams in 1868. A successful schoolmaster in Lowell for five years, and superintendent of schools from 1886 to 1891, when he resigned to give his attention to the practice of the law. Admitted to the bar in 1877. City Solicitor of Lowell, 1880-1881-1882-1885, and 1886; resigned to accept the position of Superintendent of Schools. Judge Lawton is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted when eighteen years of age, in Company G, Sixth Massachusetts Infantry, serving the full period of his enlistment. He is also a Worshipful Past Master of Kilwinning Lodge in the Masonic Fraternity of Lowell. He is sitting as one of the two Judges of Probate and Insolvency.



HON. GEORGE FIELD LAWTON, OF LOWELL AND CAMBRIDGE.
Judge of Probate and Insolvency 1894 to date.



HON. JAMES WINTHROP, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Register of Probate 1775 to 1817.
(See page 20'.)

REGISTERS OF PROBATE (AND OF INSOLVENCY SINCE 1858).

Samuel Phipps, of Charlestown, 1692 to 1702 (10 years).



Born 1651. A son of Solomon of the same town. Graduated from Harvard in 1671. He was a school teacher there several years. Register of Deeds twenty-eight years, also Clerk of Courts thirty-four years. Died August 7, 1725, aged seventy-four years. See also Clerks of Courts.

Dr. Thomas Swan, of Charlestown, 1702 to 1705 (3 years).



Born in Roxbury September 15, 1669. Graduated from Harvard in 1689. School teacher in Hadley, 1689-90, and in Charlestown 1700 to 1702. On November 2, 1702, he was sworn in as Register of Probate, but probably served only a short time, as the writing of his successor appears in 1703. Wyman, usually correct, says he moved to Milton, but no record can be found to prove it; on the contrary a petition of his widow addressed to the General Court sets forth, or makes it apparent, that he died at the Castle in Boston harbor October 19, 1710, aged forty-one, where he had been "more than seven years," as physician and surgeon at that post. "In consideration of his extraordinary Charge and Pains in the service," the General Court voted to his widow the sum of £20.

Nicholas Fessenden, 2d, of Cambridge, 1705 to 1709 (4 years).

Nich. Fessenden.

Sohn. fessenden
1658:

Born January 12, 1680. Graduated from Harvard in 1701. Master of the Grammar school in Cambridge for many years. He was son of Nicholas first, who came to America about 1674, and was heir of his uncle John, first of the name here. It is claimed that Nicholas first was ancestor of Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, of Maine, a statesman and orator of national reputation. Nicholas second died October 4, 1719, aged thirty-nine years.

Daniel Foxcroft, of Cambridge, 1709 to 1715 (6 years).

Dan Foxcroft/Ref^d 1709

Son of Francis first. He was a sub-commissary in the expedition against Canada in 1711. Moved to England in 1723, where he possessed a substantial fortune. Died at Plaistow, Eng., May 7, 1738.

Rev. Thomas Foxcroft, of Cambridge, 1715 to 1719 (4 years).

Tho Foxcroft/Ref^d

Born February 26, 1697. Son of Francis first. Graduated from Harvard in 1714. Ordained as second minister of the First Church, Boston, November 20, 1717. He was one of the ablest preachers of his generation, and remained settled over this parish during fifty-two years. He died June 16, 1769, aged seventy-three years.



ISAAC FISKE, OF WESTON AND CAMBRIDGE.
Register of Probate 1817 to 1851.
(See page 203.)



ALONZO VALENTINE LYNDE, OF STONEHAM AND MELROSE.
Register of Probate 1851 to 1853.
(See page 208.)

Francis Foxcroft, 2d, of Cambridge, 1719 to 1731 (12 years).

Son of Francis first. See Registers of Deeds.

Samuel Danforth, of Cambridge, 1731 to 1745 (14 years).

See Judges of Probate.

Hon. Andrew Bordman, of Cambridge, 1745 to 1769 (24 years)

*And.^u Bordman Reg.^r
1745*

Born there August 1, 1701. Graduated from Harvard in 1719. Town Clerk thirty-eight years, from 1731; Town Treasurer twenty-three years, from and including 1747; Representative, 1742 to '51 and 1757 to '68, inclusive, making twenty-two years' service in the General Court; Judge Court Common pleas seventeen years, from 1752 to 1769. Died May 19, 1769, aged sixty-eight years. His son, Andrew, was special Register on death of father to next appointment.

William Kneeland, of Cambridge, 1769 to 1775 (6 years).

Wm^l Kneeland Reg.^r

Born in Boston May 28, 1732. Graduated from Harvard in 1751. He was the first overseer of the poor in Cambridge, 1786. He was President of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was a Royalist, and went out of office at the opening of the Revolution. Died November 2, 1788, aged fifty-six years.

Hon. James Winthrop, of Cambridge, 1775 to 1817 (42 years).

James Winthrop Reg.^r

Born March 28, 1752. Son of Professor John of Harvard, and a descendant in the fifth generation from Governor John

Winthrop. Graduated from Harvard in 1767. Postmaster Cambridge, 1775. Librarian Harvard College, 1772 to 1787. Judge Court Common Pleas thirty years (1791 to 1821). One of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Died September 26, 1821, aged sixty-nine years.

James Foster, of Cambridge, May, 1817, to October, 1817.

James Foster Regr pro tem

Born April 23, 1786. Graduated from Harvard 1806. Was Register of Probate but five months. Died in office August 27, 1817, aged thirty-one years.

Isaac Fiske, of Weston and Cambridge, 1817 to 1851 (34 years).

Isaac Fiske, Regr

Born in Weston December 4, 1778. Graduated from Harvard in 1798. He was a successful lawyer in Weston and Cambridge, before assuming the position of Register, an office which he adorned a longer period than any predecessor save Hon. James Winthrop. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, and Town Clerk of Weston many years. He lived in a stone mansion which stood on the site of the new registry building. He was a courteous gentleman of the old school. Died March 11, 1861, aged eighty-three years.

Alonzo Valentine Lynde, of Stoneham and Melrose, 1851 to 1853 (2 years).

A. V. Lynde

Born in Stoneham of parents in humble circumstances December 27, 1823. He passed through the public schools of that town, and so applied himself to study, while teaching as a livelihood, as to be admitted to the Middlesex bar at an early age. At



ALFRED ABBOTT PRESCOTT. *Per Register.*
Register of Probate 1853 to 1859.
(See page 211.)



JOSEPH HOW TYLER, OF WINCHESTER.
Register of Probate 1859 to 1892.

the time of his death he was perhaps the senior practicing member thereof. He was a man of wonderful energy, keen and incisive in legal practice, but cautious and conservative in public and private affairs. By industry and application he amassed a large estate. He died in Melrose January 23, 1899, aged seventy-six years.

Alfred Abbott Prescott, of Reading, 1853 to 1859 (6 years).



Born there February 17, 1820. He was the son of Joshua Prescott, a graduate of Harvard, and a prominent lawyer in his day. Alfred was a member of the class of 1843, Harvard, but did not graduate. He became a member of the bar and succeeded to the practice of his father. He moved to California in 1875, where he married. After the death of his wife, sickness and misfortune overtook him. Broken in health, and without means he died in deep poverty at the county hospital of San Joaquin County, located at French Camp, California, January 19, 1897, aged seventy-seven years. He was buried in the hospital cemetery, but his remains were afterwards removed to San Francisco. He was one of the charter members of Putnam Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Cambridge.

Joseph How Tyler, of Cambridge and Winchester, 1859 to 1892 (33 years).



Born in Pelham, N. H., February 11, 1825. Was fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, and graduated at Dartmouth, 1851. Admitted to the bar in 1853. Appointed Master in Chancery, 1855. Settled in Cambridge, where he was a member of the Common Council in 1862 and '63. One of the Aldermen in 1864-65, and of the school board in 1868, '69 and '70.

President of the Cambridge Railroad company, director Cambridge National Bank, and trustee of the East Cambridge Five Cents Savings Bank. He moved to Winchester in 1870, where he became active in town affairs. Was on the school board three years, a trustee of the public library, and President of the Winchester Historical Society. He died July 11, 1892, aged sixty-seven years.

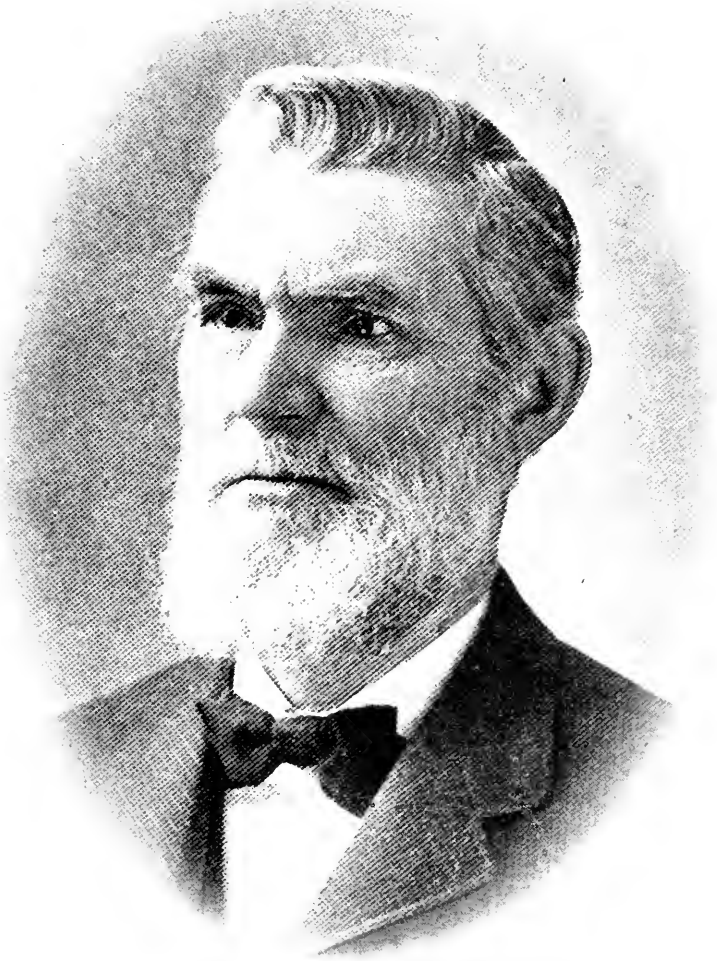
Samuel Hilliard Folsom, of Winchester, July 27, 1892, to November, 1904 (12 years).

S. H. Folsom

Born in Hopkinton, N. H., February 23, 1826. Fitted for college at Pembroke, N. H., graduating from Dartmouth in 1851. Principal of Westford Academy from 1851 to 1853, one of his pupils being Hon. J. Henry Read, who was County Commissioner twenty-one years. Admitted to the Suffolk bar, 1857. Was appointed Clerk of Courts pro tem. in 1871, serving during the sickness of Benjamin F. Ham, who was succeeded by Theo. C. Hurd in 1872. In 1874 he was appointed Assistant Register of Probate and Insolvency, which position he held eighteen years, until the death of J. H. Tyler, in 1892, when he was appointed Register by Governor Russell, and afterwards elected by the people. In January, 1904, he was stricken with apoplexy, which rendered him absolutely incompetent either to perform the duties appertaining to his office or to resign. In the month of November, 1904, a petition was presented to the Supreme Court setting forth the facts, upon which the office was declared vacant. Mr. Folsom was a faithful, efficient, and popular official. He had been in the probate service since 1871, covering a period of thirty years. He was succeeded in office by William Everett Rogers, late Assistant Register, who was appointed by Governor Bates.

William Everett Rogers, of Wakefield. Appointed November, 1904.

See Assistant Register.



SAMUEL HILLIARD FOLSOM, OF WINCHESTER.
Register of Probate and Insolvency 1892 to 1904.



WILLIAM EVERETT ROGERS, OF WAKEFIELD.
Register of Probate 1892 to 1904.

ASSISTANT REGISTERS PROBATE AND INSOLVENCY. OFFICE CREATED IN 1858.

Isaac Francis Jones, of Cambridge, 1858 to 1873 (15 years).

Isaac F. Jones. Assistant

Born in Weston February 17, 1820. Graduated from Brown University, 1843. Mr. Jones was a Clerk in the Probate office as early as 1846, previous to which he was a teacher. He was many times Register pro tem. up to 1859, when the office of Assistant Register was established, and he was appointed the first incumbent, holding the position until his last sickness. He died July 10, 1873, aged fifty-three. He married Sarah H. W., daughter of Deacon John W. Donallon, a watchmaker in Cambridge, who became somewhat noted as the "Poet Laureate" of the "seasons" in the old Robert B. Thomas Farmer's Almanac.

Samuel Hilliard Folsom, 1873 to 1892 (19 years).

Afterwards Register.

William Everett Rogers, of Wakefield, 1892 to November 30,
1904 (12 years).

Wm. E. Rogers

Born at Webster, Mass., July 16, 1851. Graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., 1877. In 1855 his father commenced practicing law in Chicago, Ill., but dying the following year, his widow with her young daughter and son removed to the home of her father, Colonel William Barron, at Norwich, Vt., and in 1865, for the purpose of educating her children, she removed to Hartford, Conn., where young Rogers passed his

school days, fitting for college in the Hartford high school. In 1879 he entered the law school of Boston University. Graduated in 1880 with an LL. B., admitted to the New Hampshire bar in August, and to the Suffolk bar in November of the same year. Practiced law in Wakefield and Boston until 1892, when he was appointed Assistant Register by Hon. George M. Brooks, the then Judge of Probate. Mr. Rogers lives in Wakefield, is a Republican, and has served his town in various offices. On the removal of Mr. Folsom for incapacity, the Governor appointed him to fill the vacancy.

Frederick March Esty, of Framingham, December, 1904, to date.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "F. M. Esty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Born in Framingham July 27, 1852. Son of Hon. C. C. Esty, a distinguished citizen of that town. Educated in the public schools of his native place and at Phillips Andover Academy. Studied law with George C. Travis, Esq., and was admitted to the bar in 1882. Appointed Deputy Sheriff in January, 1887, by the late Sheriff Cushing, serving in that capacity until appointed a Court Officer for attendance at the sessions of the Supreme and Superior Courts. Afterwards he was appointed as permanent officer for the Probate Court, where he served eight years previous to being appointed as Assistant Register of Probate and Insolvency, to succeed William E. Rogers, advanced to the position of Register. He is Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-first Masonic District.

Charles Nathan Harris, of Winchester, 1905.

Charles N. Harris.

Born at Port Byron, Ill., October 6, 1860. Son of Rev. John L. Harris, a Congregational clergyman, who, from 1872 to 1894, filled the pastorate in several Massachusetts parishes. After fitting for college, he entered the Harvard Law School, from which he was graduated in 1884. Before his graduation from the Law School, viz., on June 22, 1882, he was admitted to the Suffolk bar, and since then has maintained an office in Boston. From 1894 to 1894 Mr. Harris was second assistant attorney-general during the term of Hon. A. E. Pillsbury. In 1895 he was appointed by Governor Greenhalge to prepare the Supplement to the Public Statutes, and in 1900 he was appointed by Governor Crane a member of the commission for the consolidation and arrangement of the Public Statutes.

In 1902 he prepared the Index to the Revised Laws, and, in 1903, he assisted in drafting the Act which was subsequently enacted as the Business Corporation Law of 1903. Mr. Harris is also the author of the "Massachusetts Statutory Citations"; and, in collaboration with Grosvenor Calkins, Esq., of the Manual of the Business Corporation Laws of Massachusetts. He also edited the fourth and fifth volumes of the Massachusetts Digest. In 1905 he was appointed second assistant register of probate and insolvency for the county of Middlesex.



CHARLES NATHAN HARRIS, OF WINCHESTER.
Second Assistant Register of Probate 1905.
(See page 217.)



ISAAC FRANCIS JONES, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant Register of Probate 1858 to 1873.
(See page 215.)



FREDERICK MARCH ESTY, OF FRAMINGHAM.
Assistant Register of Probate and Insolvency 1904 to date.
(See page 216.)

REGISTERS OF DEEDS, SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Deputy Gov. Thomas Danforth, of Cambridge, April, 1649, to July 27, 1686 (37 years).

See Clerks of Courts.

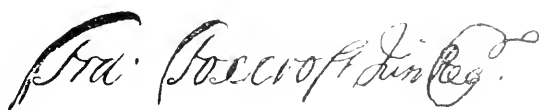
Capt. Laurence Hammond, of Charlestown, July 27, 1686, to April 10, 1693 (7 years).

See Clerks of Courts.

Capt. Samuel Phipps, of Charlestown, April 10, 1693, to April 14, 1721 (28 years.)

See Clerks of Courts.

Hon. Francis Foxcroft, of Cambridge, April 14, 1721, to April 8, 1766 (45 years).



Born January 26, 1695. Son of Francis first. Graduated from Harvard in 1712. Clerk of House, Representative, Councillor, 1732 to 1751; First Justice Court Common Pleas, 1731; Register Probate 1719-31. Register of Deeds forty-five years. The oldest Justice of the Peace in the county. He was father of John Foxcroft, Register of Deeds, 1766-76. Died March 28, 1768, aged seventy-three years.

John Foxcroft, of Cambridge, April 8, 1766, to April 22, 1776
(10 years).

John Foxcroft Regr.

Born March 26, 1740. Son of Francis second. Graduated from Harvard in 1758. Died in Cambridge, 1802, aged sixty-two years.

Adjutant-General Ebenezer Bridge, of Chelmsford, April 23, 1776,
to March 14, 1781 (5 years).

See County Treasurers.

Thaddeus Mason, of Charlestown, March 31, 1781, to December
14, 1784 (3 years).

See Clerks of Courts.

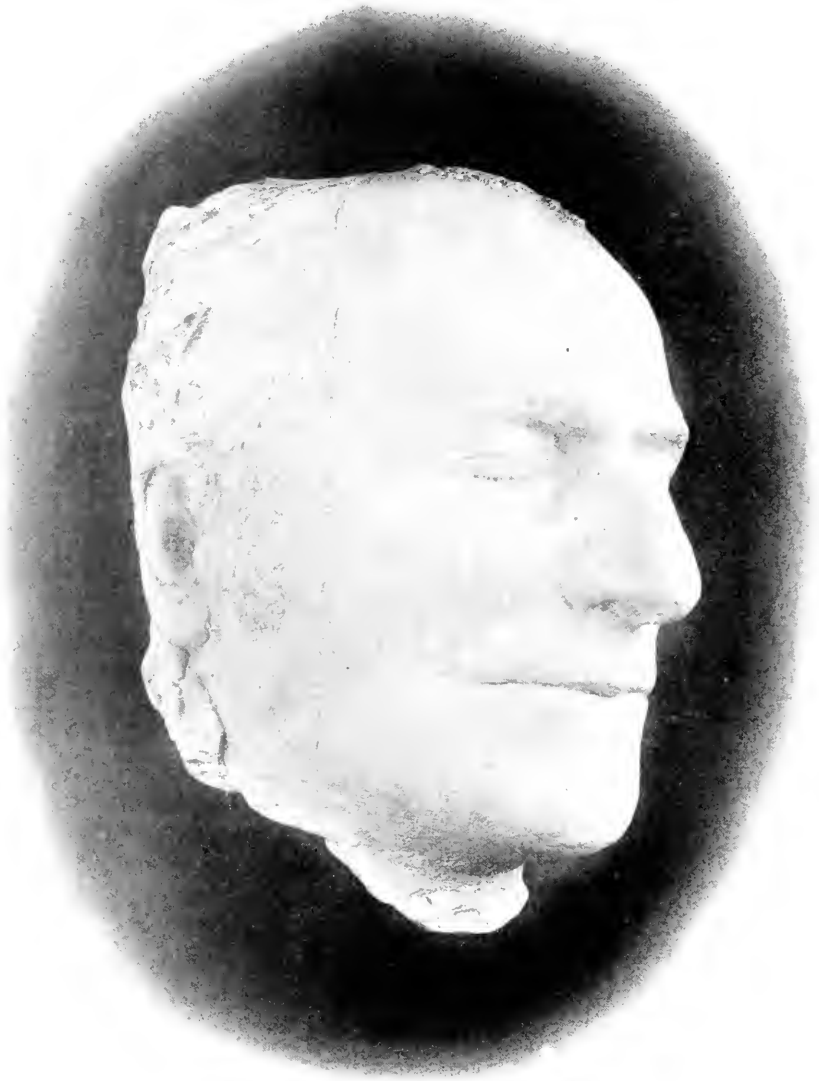
Hon. William Winthrop, of Cambridge, December 15, 1784, to
September 27, 1794 (10 years).

Wm. Winthrop Regr.

Born April 19, 1753. Son of Professor John Winthrop of Harvard College. A descendant of Governor John Winthrop in the fifth generation. Graduated from Harvard in 1770. Town



SAMUEL BARTLETT, OF CONCORD AND CAMBRIDGE.
Register of Deeds 1794 to 1821.
(See page 225.)



CALEB HAYDEN, OF CAMBRIDGE.

Register of Deeds 1845 to 1865.

From a mask in the possession of Hon. E. D. Hayden, of Woburn. (See page 226.)

Clerk, 1782 to '88. Selectman ten years, between 1786 and 1802. Senator, 1799. Died February 5, 1825, aged seventy-two years.

**Samuel Bartlett, of Concord and Cambridge, October 17, 1794,
to September 29, 1821 (27 years).**

Samuel Bartlett Reg.

Born in White Bread alley, Boston, November 17, 1752. Son of Captain Roger and Anne Hurd Bartlett, of Charlestown. He learned the trade of silversmith and pursued the business at Concord until elected as Register of Deeds, after which he removed to Cambridge, and died there while still in office, September 29, 1821, aged sixty-nine years.

**Dr. William Fiske Stone, of Framingham and Cambridge, Octo-
ber 3, 1821, to September 10, 1845 (24 years).**

Wm. F. Stone Reg.

Born in Framingham April 10, 1784. He was a practicing physician previous to his election as Register of Deeds. He was an active member of the New England Historical Genealogical Society, and a contributor in matters of interest to its membership. After serving twenty-four years as Register he resigned from ill health and died at Cambridge March 26, 1857, aged seventy-three years.

Caleb Hayden, of Cambridge, September 13, 1845, to March 13, 1865 (20 years).

Caleb Hayden Reg.

Born in Scituate September 6, 1797. Son of Daniel and Nancy (Doane) Hayden. He had only the common school education of the early years of the last century, but was a lover of books, and read and enjoyed only the best. He was a Whig at first, but afterwards a life-long Republican, and a Unitarian in religious belief. He was a quiet, genial, unassuming gentleman, ever attentive to his official duties, and courteous to all. He was never married. Hon. Edward D. Hayden, of Woburn, formerly a member of Congress, was his nephew. He died (less than a month after the commencement of his last sickness) April 6, 1865, aged sixty-eight years.

Lieut. Charles Benjamin Stevens, of Cambridge, March 13, 1865, to December 30, 1896 (31 years).

Chas. B. Stevens Reg.

Born November 7, 1818. Member Cambridge Common Council 1864-65. In 1834, at the age of sixteen, he entered the office of Registry of Deeds as a clerk. In 1865 he was elected Register, being constantly re-elected until his death. With the exception of nine months as First Lieutenant, Company A, Forty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, in the Civil war, he was in the service of the County of Middlesex sixty-two years. He died December 30, 1896, aged seventy-eight, filled with years and honor.



CHARLES BENJAMIN STEVENS, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Register of Deeds 1865 to 1896.



EDWIN OTIS CHILDS, OF NEWTON.
Register of Deeds, Southern District, 1897 to date.

Edwin Otis Childs, of Newton, January 4, 1897, to date.

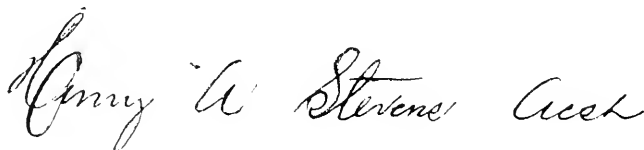
Edwin O. Childs.

Born in Milledgeville, Ga., September 29, 1847. Educated in the public schools in Springfield, Mass., Phillips (Andover) Academy, and Williams College, class of 1871. Appointed Assistant City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Newton, January 5, 1874, and served in that capacity until January 1, 1876. January 3, 1876, unanimously elected City Clerk of Newton, and was re-elected each succeeding year until he resigned April 1, 1883, to accept the position of Treasurer of the Harvard Clock company, which position he held until 1888, when he resigned. Served as Alderman of Ward 1 of the City of Newton during the years 1888 and 1889. Was appointed Deputy Sheriff and Court Officer in 1891, and served in that position until January 1, 1897, when he was appointed by the County Commissioners Register of Deeds for the Middlesex South District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles B. Stevens. In November, 1897, he was elected to fill the unexpired term, and has been constantly re-elected since that time.

ASSISTANT REGISTERS OF DEEDS, SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

(See Acts of 1873, Chap. 19, Sec. 1.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Atherton Stevens, of Cambridge,
1883 to 1895 (12 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry A. Stevens Clerk". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born in Cambridge October 25, 1848. Son of Charles B. Stevens, late Register of Deeds. Educated in the public schools of his native city. He was appointed a Clerk in the Registry, in which position he served until he became Assistant Register, April 4, 1883, serving in that capacity until the day of his death. From 1873 to 1875 he was a member of Company A, Fourth Battalion Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, rising to the rank of corporal. In 1882 and 1886 he was sergeant of the A. H. A. Company. In 1876 he was appointed Assistant Inspector-General Massachusetts Militia, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was also a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Died February 19, 1895, aged forty-seven years.

Edward Hutchings Thompson, of Cambridge, January, 1896,
to January, 1897.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward H. Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born in Boston September 16, 1850. Educated in the Boston public schools. Began work as Clerk in the Registry of



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HENRY ATHERTON STEVENS, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant Register of Deeds, Southern District, 1883 to 1895.



EDWARD HUTCHINGS THOMPSON, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant Register of Deeds, Southern District, January, 1896, to January, 1897.
(See page 230.)

Deeds (South District) under Charles B. Stevens, Register, June 17, 1872. Appointed Assistant Register by the late Charles B. Stevens January 27, 1896, served as Assistant Register until the appointment of Edwin O. Childs, Esq., by the County Commissioners as Register January 2, 1897. Appointed superintendent of the indexing department by Edwin O. Childs, Register, January 5, 1897, a position which he held until his decease, January 13, 1905, aged fifty-five years.

Thomas Leighton, Jr., 1897 to date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Leighton Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and features elegant, flowing loops and flourishes characteristic of late 19th or early 20th-century handwriting.

Was born in Cambridge October 30, 1870. Was educated in the public schools of that city, and entered Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds August 11, 1885, as messenger, under Charles B. Stevens, Register. Was appointed Assistant Register of Deeds under Edwin O. Childs, Register, January 8, 1897, which position he holds at the present time.

REGISTERS OF DEEDS OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.

(Established July 1, 1855. See Chap. 79, Acts and Resolves.)

Asahel Bliss Wright, of Lowell, 1855 to 1868 (13 years).

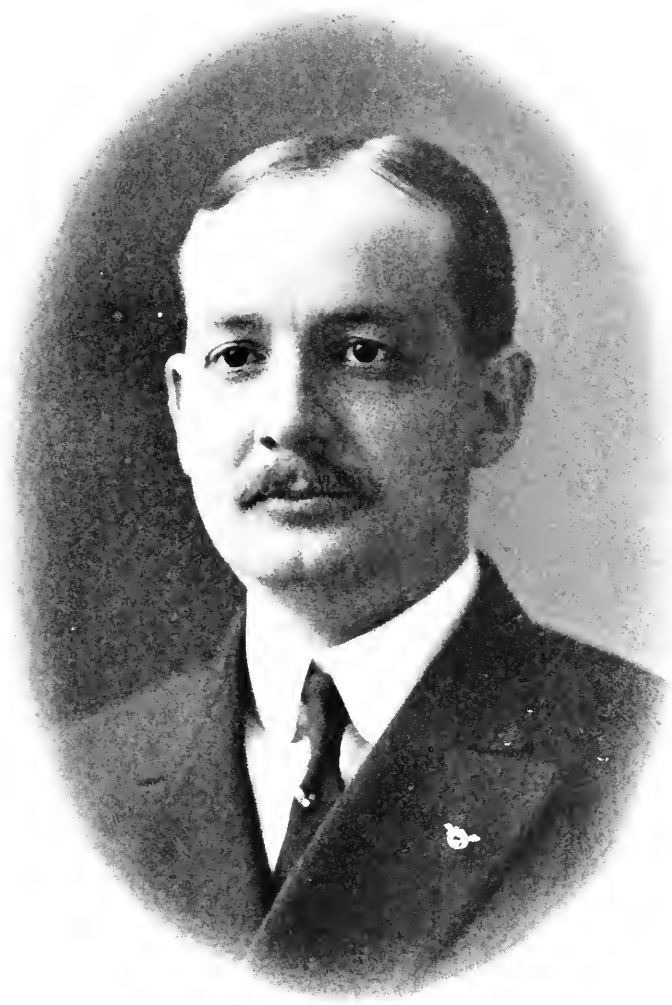
A. B. Wright.

Born at Royalton, Vt., November 5, 1819. In early life he became a citizen of Lowell, and was a compositor upon the Lowell Courier. In 1854 he was a representative to the Legislature, and in 1855 became the first Register of Deeds for the Northern District. He was an active and consistent member of the First Baptist church of Lowell, of which he was deacon. His Christian character is cherished by the church and the community in which he moved to the present day. After leaving Lowell, he established himself as a conveyancer in Boston, and died in Dorchester August 19, 1890, aged seventy-one years.

**Rev. Ithamar Warren Beard, of Lowell, 1868 to September, 1873
(6 years).**

I. W. Beard.

Born in Pittsfield, N. H., February 23, 1840. Son of the late Hon. Ithamar W. Beard, of Lowell, who was Assistant United States Treasurer under the administration of President Pierce, and a brother-in-law of Moses Norris, United States Senator from New Hampshire. The subject of this sketch passed through the public schools of Lowell, and fitted for col-



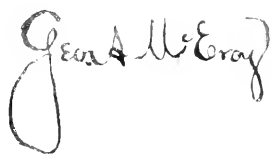
THOMAS LEIGHTON, JR., OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant Register of Deeds, Southern District, 1897 to date.
(See page 233.)



ASAHEL BLISS WRIGHT, OF LOWELL.
The First Register of Deeds, Northern District, 1855 to 1868.
(See page 234.)

lege at the Cambridge High School and Lawrence Academy, Groton. Entered Harvard in 1858, but left in his junior year to enlist in the Civil War. On account of his father's sickness, he was obliged to resign a commission in the Nineteenth Massachusetts Regiment and leave the service. He studied law with D. S. and G. F. Richardson in Lowell, and was admitted to the bar in 1861. Received the degree of A. B. from Harvard College in 1870. During his second term as Register of Deeds, he prepared himself for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church, receiving the degree of B. D. from the theological school of that sect in Cambridge June 15, 1873, and became Rector of Saint James Church, South Groveland, Mass., July, 1873, after which he resigned the position of Register of Deeds. He remained at Groveland until November 1, 1876, when he was called to be the Rector of Saint Thomas's Church, Dover, N. H., where he served with marked success until January 1, 1899, a period of twenty-three years. During his work in Dover, a new church edifice and a rectory were erected, and the membership increased from eighty-seven to two hundred and fifty. Since January 1, 1899, he has acted as chaplain of the "Chapel of the Good Shepherd" on Blackwell's Island, in the city of New York, in connection with the New York City Home for the Aged and Infirm.

George A. McEvoy, of Lowell.



Acted as Assistant Register from the resignation of Mr. Beard, about September 15, 1873, until the election and qualification of Captain Thompson. His name last appears January 8, 1874, in that capacity. Mr. McEvoy is at present an esteemed citizen of Lowell, engaged in mercantile pursuits.

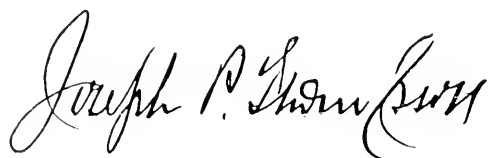


REV. ITHAMAR WARREN BEARD, OF LOWELL.
Register of Deeds, Northern District, 1868 to 1873.
(See page 234.)



JOSEPH PAINE THOMPSON, OF LOWELL.
Register of Deeds, Northern District, 1874 to date.
(See page 240.)

Captain Joseph Paine Thompson, of Lowell, 1874 to date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph P. Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

Born in Brownfield, Me., April 11, 1830. Came to Lowell in 1849, working first in a brick-yard, next with the Middlesex corporation, and finally ran a clothing store. Becoming imbued with the spirit of patriotism he sold out his store at a sacrifice, and raised a company for the Thirty-third Massachusetts Volunteers, with which he went to war as Second Lieutenant. In 1863 he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and in 1865 to Captain. He was connected with the staff of General Hooker at Lookout Mountain, and was with General Sherman in his march from Atlanta to the sea. He has been Register of Deeds, Northern District, since January, 1874.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.*

Hon. Samuel Dana, of Groton and Charlestown, 1807 to 1811
(4 years).

Samuel Dana

Born in Groton June 26, 1767. Postmaster there, 1800 to 1801. Representative, 1803, 1825, 1826, 1827. Senator, 1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812 and 1817. President of the Senate 1807-11, and 1812. Representative in Congress, 1811 and 1815. Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820, and Presidential Elector same year. Chief Justice Circuit Court Common Pleas from October 11, 1816. Died November 20, 1835, aged sixty-eight years. Judge Dana's education was of the most ordinary character, supplemented by such assistance as he received from his father, who was a Harvard graduate, and minister at Groton for many years. It would not have been deemed sufficient for entry at Harvard, had it been possible for his father to have assumed the expenses incident thereto. Notwithstanding this, he became a great lawyer, and divided high honors with Hon. Timothy Bigelow as the ablest advocate at the bar in Northern Middlesex. During much of his official career he resided in Charlestown in a colonial mansion which stood on the southerly slope of Bunker Hill, overlooking the navy yard and the harbor of Boston. He was a man of fine personality, both physically and mentally. He was six feet and one inch in height, and a gentleman in the most liberal interpretation

*From 1780 to 1807 there appears to have been no regularly-appointed County Attorneys. Under the provisions of Chap. 18, Sec. 1, of the Acts of 1807, the Governor was authorized to appoint "County Attorneys" to prosecute criminal cases in their respective counties. Chap. 130, Sec. 9, of the Acts of 1832 constituted Middlesex and Essex as the "Northern District for the administration of criminal law." In 1848, by Chap. 16, Sec. 1, Essex was constituted as the "Eastern District," thus leaving Middlesex alone in the "Northern District." Under a provision of the Constitution adopted in 1855, District Attorneys have since been elected by the people.

of the character. No picture of this distinguished man was ever painted, as he was strangely adverse to anything of the kind, which is regrettable. He was father of General James Dana.

Mr. Bigelow was a Federalist, and commanded a militia company in Groton composed exclusively of members of that party, while Mr. Dana was a Democrat, and commanded a company in the same town composed entirely of those of his political faith. Both of these able men were great lovers of horse flesh, and kept only the best. It must have been an inspiring scene to witness their drives from Groton to Concord Court, "hip and tie," as seems to have been their usual custom. After Mr. Dana moved back to Groton from Charlestown, he cultivated one of the finest and most attractive estates in Middlesex, which finally passed into the hands of Hon. Timothy Fuller, his successor in the office of County Attorney. Mr. Dana was postmaster of Groton, and it may be interesting to note that in 1800 the quarterly receipts of his office amounted to \$31. He delivered many notable Masonic orations, and was secretary of Saint Paul's Lodge, Groton.

Hon. Timothy Fuller, of Cambridge, 1811 to 1813 (2 years).



Born in Chilmark, July 11, 1778. Graduated from Harvard with second honors in 1801. Representative, 1825, 1827-1831. Speaker of House, 1825. Senator, 1813 to 1816. Councillor, 1828. Representative in Congress, 1817 to 1825. He was a man of considerable ability, both as a lawyer and statesman. He was the father and early tutor of that eccentric and extraordinary literary genius, Sarah Margaret Fuller (Marchioness de Ossoli), who was reading Latin at six years of age, and at twenty-six was a close friend of Emerson, Hawthorne, and Channing, and had earned the title of the "Priestess of Transcendentalism." She was perhaps the earliest, and certainly the



HON. TIMOTHY FULLER, OF CAMBRIDGE,
County Attorney 1811 to 1813.



HON. ASAHEL STEARNS, LL. D., OF CAMBRIDGE.
County Attorney 1813 to 1832.

ablest, advocate of women's rights. Her tragic death, with that of her husband and son, by shipwreck, near the entrance to the harbor of New York, more than fifty years ago, is still remembered and regretted. Timothy Fuller died in Groton October 1, 1835, of Asiatic cholera, aged fifty-seven years.

Hon. Asahel Stearns, of Chelmsford, Charlestown, and Cambridge, 1813 to 1832 (19 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Asahel Stearns". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born in Lunenburg June 17, 1771. Graduated from Harvard in 1797. Preceptor of Groton Academy, afterwards settled in that portion of Chelmsford now Lowell. Representative General Court, 1817. Senator, 1813, 1830, and 1831. Representative in Congress, 1815 to 1817. In the legal profession he was distinguished for his great knowledge of the law. "Real Actions," published by him in 1824, is standard authority to this day. Harvard College, wherein he was "University Professor of Law" from 1817 to 1839, conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. in 1825. In 1832 he was appointed a Commissioner on Revision of the General Statutes. He died in Cambridge February 5, 1839, aged sixty-five years.



HON. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON, OF SALEM,
District Attorney 1832 to 1845.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

Hon. Asahel Huntington, of Salem, 1832 to 1845 (13 years).

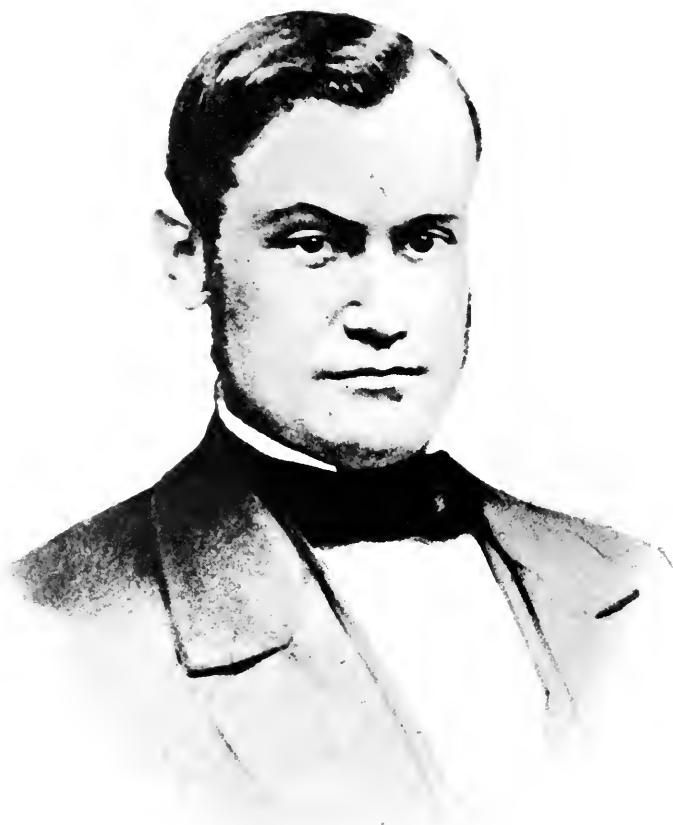
Asahel Huntington

Born in Topsfield July 23, 1798. Son of a celebrated minister of his time, whose descendants are eminent in his profession to the present day. Graduated from Yale in 1819. Settled in Salem, where he remained during the balance of an active career. Representative, 1827, 1829, 1831. Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1853, and Mayor of Salem the same year. From 1832 to 1845, when Middlesex and Essex formed the Northern District, he was District Attorney, and conducted with marked ability some of the most famous criminal cases in the annals of the court, having as antagonists such lawyers as Webster and Choate. In 1851 he was elected Clerk of Courts of Essex, and died in office September 5, 1870, aged seventy-two years. The panegyrics pronounced after his decease by distinguished members of the bench and bar were highly eulogistic and sympathetic.

Hon. Albert Hobart Nelson, of Woburn, 1845 to 1848 (3 years).

A. H. Nelson

Born in Carlisle (or Milford, Mass.), March 12, 1812. Graduated from Harvard in 1832. Senator, 1818-1849. Member of the Council, 1855. Appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court, County of Suffolk, in 1855. A good lawyer and fine speaker. He broke down mentally and became an inmate of the McLean asylum, Somerville, where he died. His wife was a daughter of Elias Plinney, of Lexington, Clerk of Courts many years. Died June 27, 1858, aged forty-six years.



HON. ALBERT HOBART NELSON, OF WOBURN.
District Attorney 1845 to 1848.
(See page 247.)



HON. CHARLES RUSSELL TRAIN, OF FRAMINGHAM AND BOSTON.
District Attorney 1848 to 1851 and from 1853 to 1855.
(See page 251.)



ISAAC STEVENS MORSE, OF LOWELL AND CAMBRIDGE.
District Attorney 1855 to 1872.
(See page 252.)

Hon. Charles Russell Train, of Framingham, 1848 to 1851 (3 years).

Chas. R. Train

Born in Framingham October 18, 1817. Graduated from Brown University in 1837. Representative from Framingham, 1847 and 1848, from Boston, 1868, 1870 and 1871. He was Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Massachusetts, in 1856, and Deputy Grand Master in 1859. Representative in Congress, 1859 to 1863, Councillor, 1857 and 1858, Member of the Constitutional Convention in 1853. A member of Common Council, Boston, 1867, 1868. Attorney-General Massachusetts, 1872 to 1878. Assistant Adjutant-General staff General Gordon in the Civil war. Was in the battle of Antietam. He was a lawyer and statesman of ability and prominence. Died at North Conway, N. H., July 29, 1885, aged sixty eight years.

Lieutenant Asa W. Farr, of Lowell, 1851 to 1853 (2 years).

A. W. Farr

Born in Sharon, Vt., 1821. In 1841 he was a citizen of Lowell; in 1841 a printer connected with the "Vox Populi," which it is said that he edited at one time; in 1845 he became a lawyer, and in 1847 was associated with Benjamin F. Butler, under the firm name of Butler and Farr. Benjamin F. Butler, his partner, first appeared in a Lowell directory printed by Leonard Huntress in 1841 as a "student at law" with William Smith. Mr. Farr was appointed District Attorney by Governor Boutwell, and removed by his successor, suffering a fate meted out to most of the officials of his political faith. Disheartened and disgusted he soon went West, settling in Geneva, Walworth County, Wis-

consin, from which place he was a member of the Wisconsin Assembly in 1856. He was a hero of the Civil war and gave his life to his country. This is the record as it stands in the office of the Adjutant-General of Wisconsin:—

"Commissioned Quartermaster Third Regiment Wisconsin Cavalry Volunteers, November 25, 1861, to rank same date. Second Lieutenant May 1, 1862. First Lieutenant and Quartermaster, November 28, 1862. Killed in action October 6, 1863, at Baxter Springs, Kansas." Aged forty-two years.

Hon. Charles R. Train, 1853 to 1855 (2 years).

Before mentioned.

Isaac Stevens Morse, of Lowell and Cambridge, 1855 to 1872 (17 years).



Born in Haverhill, N. H., December 27, 1817. City Solicitor Lowell, 1850 to 1852. Representative General Court, 1866. His career as an official was long, able, and efficient. He died in Boston, December 27, 1896, aged seventy-nine years.

John Benton Goodrich, of Newton, 1872 to 1874 (2 years).



Born in Fitchburg, January 7, 1836. Graduated from Dartmouth in 1857. From 1859 to 1865 he resided in Watertown,



JOHN BENTON GOODRICH, OF NEWTON.
District Attorney 1872 to 1874.



GEORGE STEVENS, OF LOWELL.
District Attorney 1874 to 1879.

where he served upon the school committee. After settling in Newton he was continued upon the school committee of that city during several years, and was a member of the General Court, 1869 and 1870. He was Past Master of Pequossette lodge, F. and A. M. His ancestry was of strong New England blood. William Goodrich came over with Sir Richard Saltonstall, and was in Watertown as early as 1634, afterwards pushing into the wilderness around Fitchburg. Another ancestor was Deacon David Goodrich, who commanded a company at Bunker Hill, and who had a son, John, in the same fight, from whom the Christian name descended to the subject of this sketch. Mr. Goodrich was a good lawyer, a fluent and effective speaker, and a man of charming personality. He died in Boston January 11, 1900, aged sixty-four years.

George Stevens, of Lowell, October 17, 1874, to 1879 (5 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Stevens". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "Geo." is followed by a large, flowing "S" that extends under the last name "Stevens". The signature ends with a long, horizontal flourish.

Born in Stoddard, N. H., October 23, 1824. Graduated from Dartmouth in 1849. After spending some time as a teacher, he settled in Lowell, where he gained an excellent reputation at the bar. Representative, 1858, and City Solicitor in 1867 and '68. He was a man of learning and a Christian gentleman. It is related of him that it was his custom, while at family devotions, to read a chapter of the Bible, which was repeated by his wife, his son, and his daughter in different languages. Died in Lowell June 6, 1884, aged sixty years.



HON. JOHN WILKES HAMMOND, OF CAMBRIDGE.
District Attorney 1879 to 1880.
(See page 258).



HON. WILLIAM BURNHAM STEVENS, OF STONEHAM,
District Attorney 1880 to 1890.
(See page 258.)

Hon. John Wilkes Hammond, of Cambridge, September 6, 1879,
to 1880.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John W. Hammond". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born in Mattapoisett, of parents in moderate circumstances, December 16, 1837. After passing through the public schools, by earnest application he was finally enabled to gather together a sufficient sum to enter Tufts College, from which he graduated with high honors in 1861, but burdened with a debt of \$500. He taught school awhile and then enlisted in Company I, Third Massachusetts Volunteers, serving until the close of his enlistment. After his discharge from the service he taught in Wakefield, and was principal of the Melrose high school in 1865. In 1866 he settled in Cambridge and commenced the practice of law. He was Representative in 1872 and 1873, and City Solicitor from 1873 to March 10, 1886, when he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court, from which he was advanced in 1898 to the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court, where he now sits.

Hon. William Burnham Stevens, of Stoneham, 1880 to 1890
(10 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William B. Stevens". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born there March 23, 1843. Graduated from Dartmouth in 1865. A veteran of the Civil war, having served as a private in Company C, Fiftieth Massachusetts Volunteers. After retiring from the position of District Attorney, he practiced law with distinction for several years. He wrote and published an exceedingly able and interesting history of his native town. Was appointed in 1898 as a Justice of the Superior Court, in which capacity he is now serving.



PATRICK HENRY COONEY, OF NATICK.
District Attorney 1890 to 1893.
(See page 261.)



FREDERICK NEWTON WIER, OF LOWELL.
District Attorney 1893 to 1902.

Patrick Henry Cooney, of Natick, 1890 to 1893 (3 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. H. Cooney".

Born in Stockbridge, Mass., December 20, 1845. He was educated in the Natick high school, from which he graduated, and at the Allen English and Classical school, West Newton, and was admitted to the bar in Suffolk County in 1868, since which time he has practiced in Boston and in Natick. In 1880 he was appointed Assistant District Attorney, and held the office until 1890, when he was elected District Attorney, having received the nomination of both parties. In 1893 he declined to be again a candidate, and retired from the office, since which time he has been engaged largely in defending corporations, principally the West End and the Boston Elevated, in accident and land damage cases. He served on the school committee in Natick four years, and has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Leonard Morse Hospital the past ten years.

Frederick Newton Wier, of Lowell, 1893 to 1902 (9 years).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred N. Wier".

Born in Lowell, July 4, 1861. Graduated from the public schools and fitted for college in the Lowell high school. Graduated from Amherst College, class of '82. In business for three years. Then studied law at the Boston University Law school and in the office of J. M. Marshall in Lowell; graduated from the Law school with the degree of LL. B. in 1887, and admitted to the bar in Middlesex County in the same year. Was in the office of Hon. A. L. Pillsbury, of Boston, until January, 1889, when a partnership was formed with Larkin T. Trull, in Lowell, under the firm name of Trull & Wier. Served as a member of the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Legislature during the years 1891 and 1892. Now practicing law in Boston and Lowell.



GEORGE AUGUSTUS SANDERSON, OF AYER.
District Attorney 1902 to date.

George Augustus Sanderson, 1902 to date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George A. Sanderson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Born at the old Sanderson homestead in the westerly part of Littleton, Mass., July 1, 1863, being one of the fifth generation of Sandersons born in the same house. He is the only son of George W. and Charlotte E. (Tuttle) Sanderson. In 1750 his father's ancestors settled in Littleton, contemporaneously with those of his mother, the Ipswich Tutties. Mr. Sanderson's early education was acquired in the schools of his native town. He prepared for college at Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass. In 1885 he graduated from Yale University, and from the Boston University Law school in 1887, being admitted to the bar the same year. He began practice in Boston at once, still retaining his residence in Littleton, until his removal to Ayer in 1897. After his admission to the bar, and while residing in Littleton, he conducted a class at the Massachusetts Reformatory at Concord each Sunday, going in the morning and spending the day there. He relinquished this work when appointed to the office of Assistant District Attorney in January, 1893, which office he held continuously to January 1, 1902. At the State election, November 5, 1901, he was elected District Attorney. During his residence in Littleton he was several times chosen moderator of its town meetings, and since living in Ayer he has often been called upon to perform the same duties. For several years he was a member of the school committee of Littleton, being chairman of the board at the time of his removal from that town. Since his school days at Lawrence Academy, Mr. Sanderson has had the prosperity of that institution at heart, for several years serving as a member of the Trustees, and at the present time as President of the Board. He is a member of the Episcopal church, and of the Masonic fraternity.



JOSEPH GIBSON HOLT, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant District Attorney 1875.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

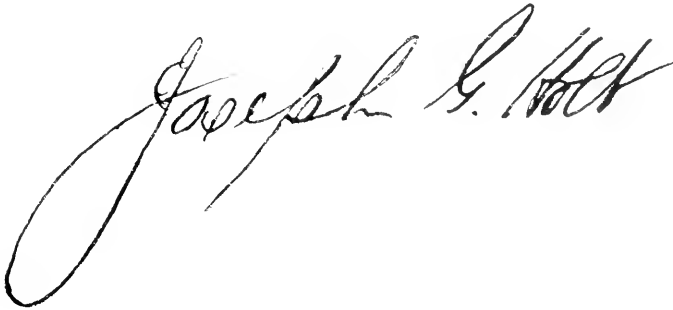
Captain Theodore Clarence Hurd, 1865 to 1872 (7 years).

See County Clerks.

Hon. Charles John McIntire, 1872 to 1875 (3 years).

See Judge of Probate.

Joseph Gibson Holt, of Cambridge, 1875, one term of Court.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph G. Holt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first letter "J" is particularly large and loops around the rest of the name.

Born in Henniker, N. H., March 9, 1839. Son of Varnum S. and Caroline Susan (Gibson) Holt. He was educated at Lawrence Academy, Groton, and after attending law lectures at Harvard, entered the office of Judge J. P. Richardson, of Cambridge. In due time he was admitted to the bar, and since then has confined his attention to the practice of the law in Suffolk and Middlesex. For many years he was an active factor in local, county, and state politics, but did not care to hold office himself, having refused a nomination to the Legislature when it was offered by both parties. He was, however, Clerk of the Cambridge Common Council from 1861 to 1866, and later on a member of that body.

In the direct line he is descended from Nicholas Holt, of Newbury and Andover, who came to America in 1635, and of whom it is related that he, with ten others, walked from Newbury



GILBERT ABIEL ABBOT PEVEY, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant District Attorney 1890 to 1893.
(See page 269.)

to Cambridge (forty miles) to record their votes for the election of John Winthrop as Governor, who was running against the famous, though unfortunate, Sir Harry Vane, a "champion of the rights of men and a foe to every tyranny," who was afterwards beheaded in England. On his mother's side he is descended from John Gibson, who was an inhabitant of Cambridge as early as 1634, and who probably came over with the Braintree company in 1632, or with Rev. Thomas Hooker in 1633.

Henry Hedden Winslow, of Cambridge, 1875 to 1880 (5 years).

Henry H. Winslow

Born in Elizabeth, N. J., May 5, 1847. Son of a sea captain, who made his home in New Bedford, where the boy was educated, graduating from the High School May 21, 1864, at the age of seventeen. One week from that date he shipped on board the whaler "James Arnold," cruising in the Atlantic until November 4, 1865. In 1866 he again shipped on the same vessel and sailed around the world. This cruise occupied over three years, and was very successful. The catch of the trip was about 3,000 barrels of sperm, some of which was sold as high as \$2.56 per gallon. In 1870 he commenced to read law with the firm of Chandler, Thayer & Hudson, a very distinguished aggregation of lawyers, Mr. Thayer becoming Professor of Law at Harvard, and Mr. Hudson President of the Bell Telephone Company. He graduated at the Harvard Law School in 1872. Moved to Cambridge in 1876, where he has practiced law ever since, having an office also in Boston. He was one of the Bar Examiners from 1886 until the appointment of the State Board of Bar Examiners in 1897. Is a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Has held no public office other than that of an Overseer of the Poor of the City of Cambridge.



HENRY HEDDEN WINSLOW, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant District Attorney 1875 to 1880.
(See page 267.)

Patrick Henry Cooney, 1880 to 1890 (10 years).

See District Attorney.

Gilbert Abiel Abbot Pevey, of Cambridge, 1890 to 1893 (3 years).



Born in Lowell, August 22, 1851. Son of Abiel and Louisa (Stone) Pevey. They were both of old New Hampshire stock. On his mother's side he is descended from a great-grandfather who was with Washington at Valley Forge, and on his father's side from a grandfather who served in the Revolutionary army. Peter Pevey, one of his paternal uncles, was a Captain in the War of 1812, and died at the age of ninety-five. His mother is still living, at the age of ninety-one, having remarkable mental and physical strength. He was one of the Carney Medal scholars at the Lowell High School, and graduated from Harvard in 1873, having won several scholarship prizes. Studied law in the office of Hon. Theodore H. Sweetser, with whom he subsequently went into partnership, and so remained until the death of that able lawyer, after which he became associated with Colonel John H. George, Attorney for the Boston & Lowell Railroad. In 1893 he was elected City Solicitor of Cambridge, a position which he still continues to manage with signal fidelity, skill, and ability. He is a member of the Masonic order, being affiliated with the lodge, chapter, and commandery in Cambridge. He is also an Odd Fellow, and is connected with many social clubs in the University City. In religion he is an active and earnest Baptist, and in politics a Republican.



HUGH BANCROFT, OF CAMBRIDGE.
Assistant District Attorney 1902 to date.

George Augustus Sanderson, 1893 to 1902 (9 years).

See District Attorney.

Hugh Bancroft, of Cambridge, January 1, 1902, to date.

Hugh Bancroft

Born in Cambridge, September 13, 1879. Son of Major-General William A. Bancroft. Graduate of Harvard in 1897. Member of the winning University crew in 1899; also of the crew in 1900 and 1901. Admitted to the bar in February, 1901, and began the practice of law the following August, with Judge Arthur P. Stone and Hon. F. W. Dallinger. Enlisted in Company B, Fifth Infantry, M. V. M., July 1, 1894, as Private, later Corporal and Sergeant. September 13, 1897, Captain and Engineer on the Staff Second Brigade. April 17, 1903, commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General Second Brigade, M. V. M. During the Spanish war he served as First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Fifth Massachusetts Infantry.

SUPPLEMENT.

Containing likenesses of the present Associate County Commissioners; the Special Sheriff; the Deputy Sheriffs; the Court Officers; the Probation Officers of the Superior Criminal Court; and the Heads of Departments now in service, all being alphabetically arranged for convenient reference.

Associate County Commissioners.

Hon. Edward Everett Thompson, ex-Mayor of Woburn. Born there December 18, 1826. Elected in 1877.

David Tompkins Strange, of Stoneham. Born in Dighton, Mass., July 27, 1817. Elected in 1899.

Keeper of the Cambridge Jail and Master of the House of Correction.

John R. Fairbairn. See page 164.

Deputy Masters of House of Correction and the Cambridge Jail.

Ransom Willard, of Cambridge. Born in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., July 13, 1817. Appointed an officer in the House of Correction in 1882.

George Walter Cusbing, of Cambridge. Born in Abington, Mass., October 9, 1844. First appointed Deputy Keeper of Lowell Jail in 1893.

NOTE. In this collection will be found two of the "tried and faithful" who have passed away during the present generation, viz.: Captain John M. Fisk, a Deputy Sheriff for many years, afterwards and until the day of his death, Special Sheriff, Master of the House of Correction, and Keeper of the Cambridge Jail. He was born in Framingham and died in Cambridge, May 3, 1896, aged 57 years. Colonel Jefferson Bancroft, of Lowell; three times mayor of that city; Warden of the State Prison and Nestor of all county officials since the Colonial period, having served as Deputy Sheriff fifty-three years until his death, January 3, 1890, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was born in Warwick, Mass., April 30, 1803.—[Ed.]



THEO. ADAMS



COL JEFF BANCROFT



A. S. BAKER



J. H. BUCK



G. W. CUSHING



E. W. CLARK



F. G. COKER



W. R. DAVIS



M. E. EASTMAN



H. DOANE

Keeper of the Lowell Jail.

Alvah Smith Baker, of Lowell. Born in Veazie, Me., March 13, 1862. Appointed Keeper, 1899. Appointed Deputy Sheriff, 1886.

Physician and Surgeon of the Cambridge Jail.

Edward Roswell Utley, of Newton. Born in Dedham, Mass., August 18, 1862. Appointed July 18, 1890.

Superintendent of Brush Department, House of Correction.

Charles Francis Kenney, of Cambridge. Born July 15, 1811, at Passadumkeag, Me. Appointed an officer of the House of Correction February 13, 1872.

Probation Officers of Superior Criminal Court.

James Petrie Ramsay, of Lowell. Born in Arbroath, Scotland, April 30, 1861. Probably the first person in the United States to operate an Interlocking Switch and Signal Tower. He was in charge of the Lowell Tower twenty years. Member of the Legislature in 1897 and 1898.

Rev. Robert Walker, of Cambridge. Born in Waltham January 24, 1868. Graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, in 1891. In 1891 was ordained rector of Church of the Ascension, Cambridge, where he now preaches. Member of the Cambridge School Committee, and Chaplain of the House of Correction.

Chief Official Court Stenographer.

Laure Irving Doane, of Winchester. Born in Orleans, Mass., January 16, 1850. Appointed September, 1885.



J. M. FISK



C. A. EVELETH



J. E. FAIRBARN



C. H. KENNEY



J. W. JONES



E. H. KENDALL



C. F. MORSE



J. H. MCKENNA



GEORGE NUTT



J. R. PARRY

Special Sheriff. See Chap. 167, Acts 1880.

George Washington Webb Saville, of Malden. Born in Quincy, Mass., February, 1833. Appointed October 16, 1899. See Court Officers.

Deputy Sheriffs. See Chap. 44, Acts 1783; also statutes of 1699

Joseph Henry Buck, of Woburn. Born in Stoneham June 1, 1846. Appointed January, 1902.

Edward Warren Clark, of Tewksbury. Born there September 10, 1854. Appointed in 1899.

Moses Frank Eastman, of Melrose. Born in Salem July 16, 1847. Appointed in 1893.

Charles Allen Eveleth, of Lowell. Born in Orono, Me., July 1, 1857. Appointed in 1899.

John Willard Jones, of Somerville. Born in Charlestown, Mass. March 27, 1860. Appointed in 1904.

James Henry McKenna, of Waltham. Born there December 11, 1846. Appointed in 1884.

George Nutt, of Natick. Born there November 5, 1872. Appointed in 1896. (Also Messenger of Probate Court.)

Lyman Harriman Richards, of Malden. Born in Bristol, Me., September 15, 1845. Appointed in 1893.

Harry Egbert Shaw, of Lowell. Born in Turner, Me., April 1, 1861. Appointed in 1903. See Court Officers.

Henry Clay Sherwin, of Ayer. Born in Townsend, Mass., August 10, 1840. Appointed in 1883.

George Francis Stiles, of Lowell. Born there August 19, 1867. Commission dated 1881. See Court Officers.

Bradshaw Stearns Tolman, of Waltham. Born there March 20, 1851. Appointed in 1898.

[Continued on page 278.]



G.W.W. SAVILLE



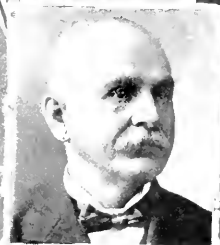
L.H. RICHARDS



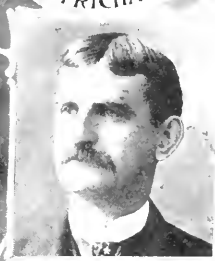
J.P. RAMSAY



H.E. SHAW



H.C. SHERWIN



G.F. STILES



D.T. STRANGE



J.E. TIDD



B. STOLMAN



E.E. THOMPSON

Deputy Sheriffs. — (Continued).

Samuel Webster Tucker, of Newton. Born in Boston May 5, 1852. Appointed April 28, 1884.

William Henry Walsh, of Framingham. Born there July 3, 1861. Appointed in 1892.

Walter Chalk Wardwell, of Cambridge. Born in Richmond, Va., January 27, 1859. Appointed in 1893.

Charles Gilbert Whitman, of Marlborough. Born in Marblehead August 22, 1859. Appointed in 1890.

Bartholomew Mansfield Young, of Cambridge. Born in Sunbury County, N. B., Easter morning, 1848. Appointed in 1895.

Deputy Sheriff at Cambridge Jail.

George Walter Cushing, of Cambridge. Born in Abington, Mass., October 9, 1844. See Deputy Keeper of Jail at Cambridge.

Court Officers. See Acts of 1892, Chap. 107; 1895, Chap. 246; 1899, Chap. 423.

William Ripley Davis, of Cambridge. Born in West Appleton, Me., March 8, 1862. Appointed in 1899.

John Edwin Fairbairn, of Cambridge. Born in Somerville May 26, 1875. Appointed in 1903.

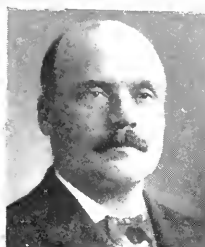
Charles Francis Morse, of Marlborough. Born in Framingham January 16, 1832. Appointed Deputy Sheriff in 1873.

James Richard Parry, of Somerville. Born there May 28, 1861. Appointed in 1904 as Officer of the Probate Court.

George W. W. Saville, of Malden. See Special Sheriff. Appointed in 1892.

Harry E. Shaw, of Lowell. See Deputy Sheriff. Appointed in 1895.

[Continued on page 280.]



ERUTLEY M.D



S.W. TUCKER



REV. R. WALKER



W. C. WARDWELL



C. G. WHITMAN



R. WILLARD



M. A. WARREN



A. H. WIGGIN



W. H. WALSH



B. M. YOUNG

Court Officers — (Continued.)

George F. Stiles, of Lowell. See Deputy Sheriff. Appointed in 1899.

John Edgell Tidd, of Woburn. Born there September 7, 1839. Appointed April, 1895.

Arthur Hamilton Wiggin, of Newton. Born in Chelsea October 26, 1848. Appointed in 1897.

Superintendent of County Buildings.

Frederick George Coker, of Somerville. Born in Anna, Me., February 7, 1849. Appointed January 1, 1880.

Janitor of Lowell Court House.

Theodore Adams, of Lowell. Born there December 5, 1831. Appointed March, 1876.

County Engineer.

Francis Howe Kendall, of Belmont. Born there August 23, 1869. Appointed July 1, 1894.

Superintendent of County Truant School.

Moses Alton Warren, of Chelmsford. Born in Freedom, Me., September 5, 1858. Appointed in 1894.

CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

A chronological account relating to the establishment, incorporation, etc., of all the cities and towns in Middlesex County, with dates when each was first mentioned in Records of the state, or therein recorded as established or incorporated, and other interesting data connected therewith. Compiled from the archives and public documents of the Commonwealth as codified and arranged by the Commissioner of Public Records. To this matter has been added an interesting collection of Corporate Seals now in use in the various cities and towns of Middlesex County.

Middlesex County Was Incorporated May 10, 1643.

Acton—July 3,* 1735, part of Concord, with Willard's Farms.

April 28, 1780, part included in the second district of Carlisle.

Arlington—April 13, 1867, name changed from West Cambridge. April 30, 1867, the act took effect.

Ashby—March 6, 1767, parts of Ashburnham, Fitchburg, and Townsend. November 16, 1792, parts of Ashburnham annexed. March 3, 1829, part of Fitchburg annexed.

Ashland—March 16, 1816, parts of Framingham, Holliston, and Hopkinton. April 28, 1853, part to be annexed to Hopkinton when a certain sum is paid by Hopkinton. May 2, 1853, the act took effect.

Ayer—February 11, 1874, parts of Groton and Shirley.

Bedford—September 23,* 1729, parts of Billerica and Concord. February 26, 1767, part of Billerica annexed.

Belmont—March 18, 1859, parts of Waltham, Watertown, and West Cambridge. January 31, 1861, bounds between Belmont and West Cambridge established. February 25, 1862, part of Cambridge annexed and bounds established. April

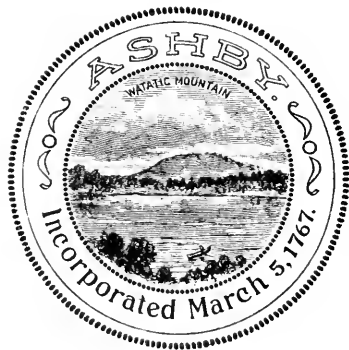
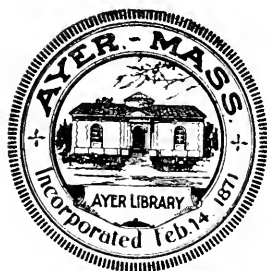
The star (*) following a date signifies that it is Old Style.

Many of the doings of the court are given in different volumes of the early records under different dates, usually, however, in the same year. The earliest date is given in this table.

Names of cities are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; of extinct cities, towns, and districts, in *italics*.



Arlington.



19, 1880, part annexed to Cambridge. April 28, 1891, bounds between Belmont and Cambridge established and part of each place annexed to the other place. May 23, 1903, bounds between Belmont and Watertown established.

Billerica—May 29,* 1655, common land. May 11,* 1656, eight thousand acres of common land granted to Billerica. May 15,* 1657, certain lands granted to Billerica. May 26,* 1658, bounds between Billerica and Andover established. May 22,* 1661, four thousand acres of land granted to Billerica. October 10,* 1666, bounds between Billerica and Woburn established. October 12,* 1669, bounds between Billerica and Woburn established. June 21,* 1701, bounds between Billerica and Chelmsford and Concord established. September 23,* 1729, part included in the new town of Bedford. December 11,* 1734, part established as Tewksbury. July 28,* 1741, bounds between Billerica and Woburn established. February 26, 1767, part annexed to Bedford. April 28, 1780, part included in the second district of Carlisle.

Boxborough—February 25, 1783, parts of Harvard, Littleton, and Stow established as the district of Boxborough. February 20, 1794, bounds between Boxborough and Littleton established. November 4, 1835, the district made a town by chapter 15 of the Revised Statutes. April 30, 1890, bounds between Boxborough and Littleton established.

Brighton—February 21, 1807, part of Cambridge. January 27, 1816, part of Cambridge annexed. May 21, 1813, Brighton annexed to Boston if the act is accepted by both places. October 7, 1813, the act accepted by both. January 5, 1814, the act took effect.

Burlington—February 28, 1799, part of Woburn. January 20, 1800, part annexed to Lexington.

CAMBRIDGE—September 8,* 1636, the town of Newe Towne. May 2,* 1638, name changed to Cambridge. March 13,*

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Cambridge.



1639, bounds between Cambridge and Watertown established. October 1,* 1641, bounds between Cambridge and Boston established. November 12,* 1659, one thousand acres of land granted to Cambridge. October 19,* 1661, the grant renewed. March 20,* 1713, part established as Lexington. April 19, 1754, bounds between Cambridge and Watertown established. June 1, 1755, part annexed to Waltham. April 18, 1761, part of Charlestown annexed. March 6, 1802, part of Charlestown annexed. February 24, 1807, part established as Brighton. February 21, 1807, part established as West Cambridge. January 21, 1816, part annexed to Brighton. February 12, 1818, part of Charlestown annexed. June 17, 1820, part of Charlestown annexed. March 17, 1846, Cambridge incorporated as a city. March 30, 1846, act of incorporation accepted by the town. April 27, 1855, part of Watertown annexed. April 30, 1856, bounds between Cambridge and Somerville established and part of each place annexed to the other place. February 25, 1862, parts of Belmont and West Cambridge annexed. Parts annexed to Belmont and West Cambridge, and bounds established. April 29, 1862, bounds between Cambridge and Somerville established and part of each place annexed to the other place. April 19, 1880, part of Belmont annexed. March 10, 1885, part of Watertown annexed. April 28, 1891, bounds between Cambridge and Belmont established and part of each place annexed to the other place. March 9, 1898, bounds between Cambridge and Watertown established and part of each place annexed to the other. March 29, 1898, bounds between Cambridge and Boston established.

Carlisle, District of—April 19, 1754, part of Concord. October 6, 1756, the district annexed to Concord.

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Carlisle—April 28, 1780, parts of Acton, Billerica, Chelmsford and Concord established as the district of Carlisle. September 12, 1780, part of the district of Carlisle annexed to Concord. March 1, 1783, part of the district of Carlisle annexed to Chelmsford. February 18, 1805, the district made a town. February 17, 1865, part of Chelmsford annexed to Carlisle and bounds established. May 23, 1903, bounds between Carlisle and Concord established.

Charlestown—August 23,* 1630, common land. March 6,* 1632, bounds between Charlestown and Newe Towne established. July 8,* 1635, bounds between Charlestown and Boston established. March 3,* 1636, bounds established "eight miles into the country from their meeting-house." March 28,* 1636, bounds between Charlestown and Boston established. October 28,* 1636, Lovel's Island granted to Charlestown, provided they employ it for fishing. May 13,* 1640, certain common lands granted to Charlestown. October 7,* 1640, certain common lands granted to Charlestown. September 27,* 1642, part established as Woburn. October 27,* 1648, Lovel's Island granted to Charlestown, provided "half the timber and firewood shall belong to the garrison at the castle." May 2,* 1649, part established as Malden. November 12,* 1659, one thousand acres of land granted to Charlestown. October 21,* 1663, certain common lands granted to Charlestown. October 19,* 1664, the grant made November 12,* 1659, renewed. December 17,* 1725, part established as Stoneham. April 19, 1754, part annexed to Medford. April 18, 1761, part annexed to Cambridge. March 6, 1802, part annexed to Cambridge. June 21, 1811, part of Medford annexed. February 12, 1818, part annexed to Cambridge. June 17, 1820, part annexed to Cambridge. February 25, 1842, part annexed to West Cambridge.

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March 3, 1812, part established as Somerville. February 22, 1817, Charlestown incorporated as a city. March 10, 1817, act of incorporation accepted by the town. May 11, 1813, Charlestown annexed to Boston if the act is accepted by both cities. October 7, 1813, act accepted by both. January 5, 1814, the act took effect.

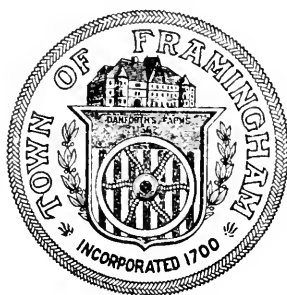
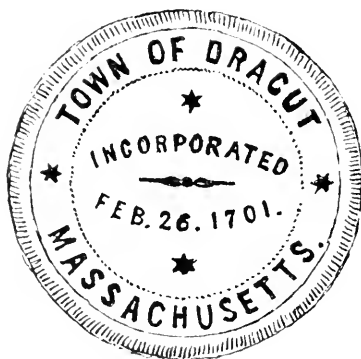
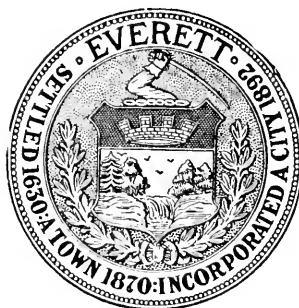
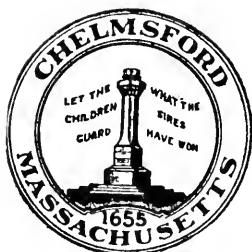
Chelmsford—May 29,* 1655, common land. May 11,* 1656, land granted to Chelmsford. May 31,* 1660, bounds between Chelmsford and the Indian plantation at Patucket established. June 27,* 1701, bounds between Chelmsford and Billerica established. June 13,* 1726, "Wameset" annexed. September 23,* 1729, part established as Westford. April 21, 1755, part annexed to Dunstable. April 28, 1780, part included in the second district of Carlisle. March 1, 1783, part of the second district of Carlisle annexed. March 1, 1826, part established as Lowell. February 17, 1865, part annexed to Carlisle and bounds established. May 18, 1874, part annexed to Lowell. June 23, 1874, act of May 18, 1874, accepted by Lowell. August 1, 1874, the act took effect.

Concord—September 3,* 1635, a plantation at Musketequid. August 20,* 1638, bounds between Concord, Dedham, and Watertown established. May 13,* 1651, bounds between Concord and Watertown established. June 27,* 1701, bounds between Concord and Billerica established. April 12,* 1717, bounds between Concord and Stow established. September 23,* 1729, part included in the new town of Bedford. July 3,* 1735, part included in the new town of Acton. April 19, 1754, part included in the new town of Lincoln. April 19, 1754, part made the first district of Carlisle. October 6, 1756, the first district of Carlisle annexed. April 28, 1780, part included in the second district of Carlisle. September 12, 1780, part of the district of Carlisle annexed.

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Names of cities are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; of extinct cities, towns, and districts, in *italics*.



May 23, 1903, bounds between Concord and Carlisle established.

Dracut—February 26,* 1702, common land. February 28, 1851, part annexed to Lowell. May 18, 1874, part annexed to Lowell. June 23, 1874, the act accepted by Lowell. August 1, 1874, the act took effect. April 1, 1879, part annexed to Lowell.

Dunstable—October 13,* 1680, common land. January 1,* 1733, part established as Nottingham (N. H.). July 4, *1735, part included in the new town of Litchfield (N. H.). June 8,* 1747, part of Groton annexed. June 8,* 1747, part of Nottingham annexed. June 7, 1753, part of Groton annexed. June 14, 1751, part of Nottingham annexed. April 24, 1755, part of Chelmsford annexed. June 22, 1789, part established as the district of Tyngsborough. March 3, 1792, part annexed to the district of Tyngsborough. February 25, 1793, part of Groton annexed. January 26, 1796, part of Groton annexed. January 29, 1798, bounds between Dunstable and the district of Tyngsborough established. June 18, 1803, part of Groton annexed. June 10, 1811, bounds between Dunstable and Tyngsborough established. February 15, 1820, bounds between Dunstable and Groton established.

East Sudbury—April 10, 1780, part of Sudbury. March 11, 1835, name changed to Wayland.

EVERETT—March 9, 1870, part of Malden. April 20, 1875, part annexed to Medford. June 11, 1892, Everett incorporated as a city. July 19, 1892, act of incorporation accepted by the town.

Framingham—October 13,* 1675, common land. June 25,* 1700, the plantation of Framingham established as Framingham. July 5,* 1700, certain common lands annexed. July 11,* 1700, part of Sherborn annexed. June 13,* 1701,

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bounds between Framingham and Sudbury established. June 16,* 1710, bounds between Framingham and Sherborn established. March 7, 1786, part annexed to Southborough. February 23, 1791, part annexed to Marlborough. February 11, 1833, part of Holliston annexed. March 16, 1846, part included in the new town of Ashland. April 22, 1871, part of Natick annexed.

Groton—May 23,* 1655, the plantation of Petapawag. June 14,* 1715, bounds between Groton and Nashoba established. September 10,* 1730, part annexed to Westford. June 29,* 1732, part included in the new town of Harvard. February 27,* 1743, bounds between Groton and Littleton established. June 8,* 1747, part annexed to Dunstable. January 5, 1753, part established as the district of Shirley. April 12, 1753, part established as the district of Pepperell. June 7, 1753, part annexed to Dunstable. February 25, 1793, part annexed to Dunstable. January 26, 1796, part annexed to Dunstable. February 6, 1798, part annexed to Shirley. February 3, 1803, part of Pepperell annexed. June 18, 1803, part annexed to Dunstable. February 15, 1820, bounds between Groton and Dunstable established. May 18, 1857, part annexed to Pepperell. February 11, 1871, part included in the new town of Ayer.

Holliston—December 3,* 1724, part of Sherborn. April 28, 1781, part of Hopkinton annexed. March 3, 1829, part of Medway annexed and bounds established. February 11, 1833, part annexed to Framingham. March 27, 1835, part annexed to Milford and bounds between Holliston, Hopkinton, and Milford established. March 16, 1846, part included in the new town of Ashland. April 1, 1859, bounds between Holliston and Milford established.

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Hopkinton—December 13,* 1715, certain common lands and the plantation called Moguncoy. June 14,* 1735, part included in the new town of Upton. April 28, 1781, part annexed to Holliston. March 8, 1808, part annexed to Upton. March 27, 1835, part of Milford annexed, part annexed to Milford, and bounds between Hopkinton, Holliston, and Milford established. March 15, 1846, part included in the new town of Ashland. April 28, 1853, part of Ashland to be annexed when a certain sum is paid by Hopkinton. May 2, 1853, three hundred dollars paid by Hopkinton and the act in effect.

Hudson—March 19, 1866, parts of Marlborough and Stow. March 20, 1868, part of Bolton annexed.

Lexington—March 20,* 1713, the North Precinct in Cambridge. April 19, 1754, part included in the new town of Lincoln. January 20, 1800, part of Burlington annexed. February 28, 1853, bounds between Lexington and Lincoln established. April 4, 1895, bounds between Lexington and Waltham located and defined.

Lincoln—April 19, 1754, parts of Concord, Lexington, and Weston. February 28, 1853, bounds between Lincoln and Lexington established.

Littleton—December 3,* 1715, common land. June 14,* 1715, bounds between Nashoba† and Groton established. February 27,* 1743, bounds between Littleton and Groton established. February 25, 1783, part included in the new district of Boxborough. February 20, 1794, bounds between Littleton and Boxborough established. April 30, 1890, bounds between Littleton and Boxborough established.

LOWELL—March 1, 1826, part of Chelmsford. March 29, 1831, part of Tewksbury annexed. April 1, 1836, Lowell incorpo-

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†Afterward Littleton.



rated as a city. April 11, 1836, act of incorporation accepted by the town. February 28, 1851, part of Draught annexed. May 18, 1874, parts of Chelmsford and Draught annexed. June 5, 1874, part of Tewksbury annexed. June 23, 1874, act of May 18, 1874, accepted by Lowell. August 1, 1874, the act took effect. April 1, 1879, part of Draught annexed. May 17, 1888, part of Tewksbury annexed.

MALDEN—May 2,* 1649, part of Charlestown called Mystic Side. December 24,* 1734, part of Malden annexed to Stoneham. December 18, 1753, bounds between Malden and Reading established. June 10, 1817, part annexed to Medford. May 3, 1850, part established as Melrose. March 9, 1870, part established as Everett. April 20, 1877, part of Medford annexed. February 20, 1878, bounds between Malden and Medford established. March 31, 1881, Malden incorporated as a city. June 9, 1881, act of incorporation accepted by the town.

MARLBOROUGH—May 31,* 1660, common land. July 2,* 1700, certain common lands granted to Marlborough. November 16,* 1746, a tract of land called Agaganquamasset confirmed to Marlborough. October 25,* 1747, Meek's Farms granted to Marlborough. November 18,* 1747, part established as Westborough. July 6,* 1777, part established as Southborough. July 11, 1783, bounds between Marlborough and Stow established. March 16, 1781, part included in the new district of Berlin. February 23, 1791, part of Framingham annexed. June 20, 1807, part annexed to Northborough and bounds established. February 11, 1829, part annexed to Bolton. March 16, 1838, bounds between Marlborough and Bolton established. March 24, 1843, part of Southborough annexed. March 19, 1866, part included in the new town of Hudson. May 23, 1890, Marlborough

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incorporated as a city. July 14, 1890, act of incorporation accepted by the town. May 16, 1901, bounds between Marlborough and Southborough established.

Maynard—April 19, 1811, parts of Sudbury and Stow.

MEDFORD—September 28,* 1630, common land. April 19, 1754, part of Charlestown annexed to Medford. June 21, 1811, part annexed to Charlestown. June 10, 1817, part of Malden annexed. April 30, 1850, part included in the new town of Winchester. April 20, 1875, part of Everett annexed. April 20, 1877, part annexed to Malden. February 20, 1878, bounds between Medford and Malden established. May 31, 1892, Medford incorporated as a city. October 6, 1892, act of incorporation accepted by the town.

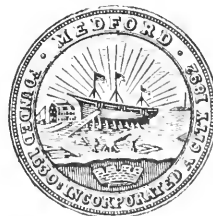
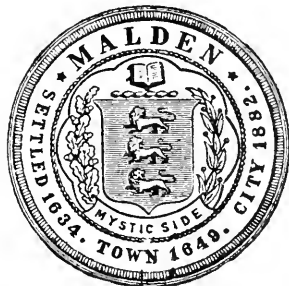
MELROSE—May 3, 1850, part of Malden. March 15, 1853, part of Stoneham annexed. March 27, 1895, bounds between Melrose and Stoneham located and defined. March 18, 1899, Melrose incorporated as a city. May 8, 1899, act of incorporation accepted by the town.

NATICK—October 14,* 1651, Indian plantation at Natick mentioned. May 31,* 1660, bounds of the plantation established. April 16,* 1679, exchange of land made with Sherborn. May 30,* 1679, the exchange of land with Sherborn ratified by the General Court. October 18,* 1704, bounds between Natick and Dedham established. February 23, 1762, the parish of Natick established as the district of Natick. February 19, 1781, the district of Natick made a town. June 22, 1797, bounds between Natick and Needham established and part of each town annexed to the other town. February 7, 1820, part of Sherborn annexed. April 26, 1850, bounds between Natick and Wayland established. April 22, 1871, part annexed to Framingham.

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NEWTON—December 15,* 1691, the town of Cambridge Village, sometimes called Little Cambridge. June 21, 1803, an island in Charles River annexed. April 23, 1838, part annexed to Roxbury. April 16, 1849, part annexed to Waltham. June 2, 1873, Newton incorporated as a city. October 13, 1873, act of incorporation accepted by the town. May 29, 1874, bounds between Newton and Boston established. May 5, 1875, part of Boston annexed. June 23, 1875, the act accepted by Newton. July 1, 1875, the act took effect. March 29, 1898, bounds between Newton and Boston established. May 13, 1898, bounds between Newton and Boston established.

Newtowne—July 26,* 1631, common land. March 6,* 1632, bounds between "Charles-Towne and Newtowne" established. April 7,* 1635, bounds between Newtowne and Watertown, and between Newtowne and Roxbury established. May 2,* 1638, name changed to Cambridge.

North Reading—March 22, 1853, part of Reading. May 27, 1857, bounds between North Reading and Lynnfield established and part of each town annexed to the other town, provided the act is accepted by both towns. January 7, 1858, the act accepted by North Reading. (Accepted by Lynnfield November 3, 1857.) March 12, 1904, bounds between North Reading and North Andover established. April 22, 1904, bounds between North Reading and Andover established.

Pepperell—April 12, 1753, the second precinct of Groton made the district of "Pepperell." August 23, 1775, the district made a town by general act. February 3, 1803, part annexed to Groton. May 18, 1857, part of Groton annexed.

Reading—May 29,* 1641, part of Lynn. May 29,* 1644, bounds between Reading and Woburn established. October 14,*

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1651, land granted to Reading. September 25,* 1730, part included in the new town of Wilmington. December 21,* 1731, part annexed to Stoneham. April 5, 1751, bounds between Reading and Stoneham established. December 18, 1753, bounds between Reading and Malden established. February 25, 1812, First or South Parish of Reading established as South Reading. June 16, 1813, part of South Reading annexed. March 22, 1853, part established as North Reading. April 10, 1854, bounds between Reading and Lynnfield established.

Sherborn†—October 7,* 1674, common land. April 16,* 1679, exchange of land made with the plantation of Natick. May 30,* 1679, the exchange ratified by the General Court. May 17,* 1681, the grant of October 7,* 1674, and the name Sherborne, then given, confirmed. July 11,* 1700, part annexed to Framingham. June 16,* 1710, bounds between Sherborn and Framingham established. December 3, 1724, part established as Holliston. March 3, 1792, bounds between Sherburne and Medway established. February 7, 1820, part annexed to Natick. May 3, 1852, the name of the town of Sherburne [sic] changed to Sherborn.

Shirley—January 5, 1753, part of Groton established as the district of Shirley. August 23, 1775, the district made a town by general act. February 6, 1798, part of Groton annexed. March 3, 1846, bounds between Shirley and Lunenburg established. April 25, 1848, bounds between Shirley and Lunenburg established. February 11, 1871, part included in the new town of Ayer.

SOMERVILLE—March 3, 1842, part of Charlestown. April 30, 1856, bounds between Somerville and Cambridge established and part of each place annexed to the other place.

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†See the extinct town of Sherburn. The spelling of the town name is given in each instance as found in the records.

April 29, 1862, bounds between Somerville and Cambridge established and part of each place annexed to the other place. April 14, 1871, Somerville incorporated as a city. April 27, 1871, act of incorporation accepted by the town. May 1, 1891, bounds between Somerville and Boston established.

South Reading—February 25, 1812, part of Reading. June 16, 1813, part annexed to Reading. April 5, 1856, part of Stoneham annexed. February 25, 1868, name changed to Wakefield. June 30, 1868, the act took effect.

Stoneham—December 17,* 1725, part of Charlestown. December 21,* 1734, part of Malden annexed. December 21,* 1734, part of Reading annexed. April 5,* 1751, bounds between Stoneham and Reading established. March 15, 1853, part annexed to Melrose. April 5, 1856, part annexed to South Reading. March 13, 1889, part annexed to Wakefield. March 27, 1895, bounds between Stoneham and Melrose located and defined. April 29, 1895, part of Woburn annexed to Stoneham.

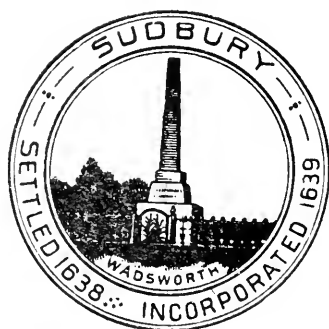
Stow—May 16,* 1683, the plantation between Concord and Lancaster called Pompositticut. April 12,* 1717, bounds between Stow and Concord established. December 29,* 1730, part of Sudbury annexed. June 29,* 1732, part included in the new town of Harvard. February 25, 1783, part included in the new town of Boxborough. July 11, 1783, bounds between Stow and Marlborough established. March 19, 1866, part included in the new town of Hudson. April 19, 1871, part included in the new town of Maynard.

Sudbury—September 4,* 1639, the new plantation by Concord. May 13,* 1640, land granted to Sudbury. May 2,* 1649, land granted to Sudbury. May 13,* 1651, bounds between Sudbury and Watertown established. June 13,* 1701,

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bounds between Sudbury and Framingham established. June 9,* 1721, certain farms annexed. December 29,* 1730, part annexed to Stow. April 10, 1780, part established as East Sudbury. April 19, 1811, part included in the new town of Maynard.

Tewksbury—December 17,* 1731, part of Billerica. March 29, 1834, part annexed to Lowell. June 5, 1844, part annexed to Lowell. May 17, 1888, part annexed to Lowell. May 21, 1903, bounds between Tewksbury and Andover established.

Townsend—June 29,* 1732, the north part of Turkey Hill. March 6, 1767, part included in the new town of Ashby.

Tyngsborough—June 22, 1789, part of Dunstable established as the district of Tyngsborough. March 3, 1792, part of Dunstable annexed to the district of Tyngsborough. January 29, 1798, part of Dunstable annexed to the district of Tyngsborough and bounds established. February 23, 1809, the district made a town. June 10, 1811, bounds between Tyngsborough and Dunstable established.

Wakefield—February 25, 1868, name changed from South Reading. June 30, 1868, the act took effect. April 2, 1870, bounds between Wakefield and Lynnfield established. March 13, 1889, part of Stoneham annexed.

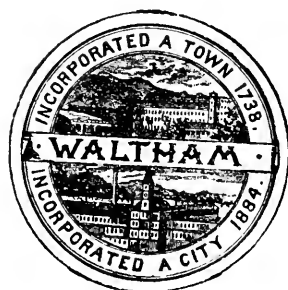
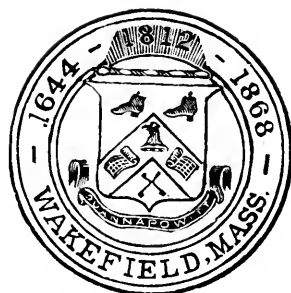
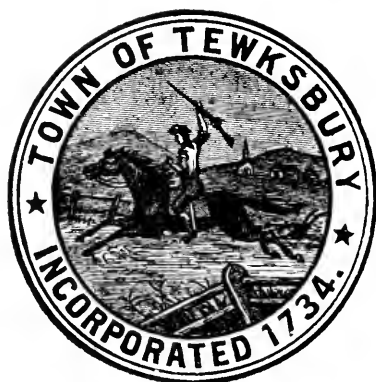
WALTHAM—January 1,* 1738, part of Watertown. June 4, 1755, part of Cambridge annexed. April 16, 1849, part of Newton annexed. March 18, 1859, part included in the new town of Belmont. June 2, 1884, Waltham incorporated as a city. July 16, 1884, act of incorporation accepted by the town. April 4, 1895, bounds between Waltham and Lexington located and defined.

Watertown—September 7,* 1630, "the town upon Charles River." September 25,* 1634, part of New Towne to revert

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to Watertown, "if Mr. Hooker and his congregation shall remove hence." April 1,* 1635, bounds between Watertown and New Towne established. August 20,* 1638, bounds between Watertown, Concord, and Dedham established. March 13,* 1639, bounds between Watertown and Cambridge established. May 22,* 1639, bounds between Watertown and Dedham established. May 13,* 1651, bounds between Watertown and Sudbury established. May 13,* 1651, bounds between Watertown and Concord established. January 1,* 1712, part established as Weston. January 1,* 1738, part established as Waltham. April 19, 1751, bounds between Watertown and Cambridge established. April 27, 1855, part annexed to Cambridge. March 18, 1859, part included in the new town of Belmont. March 10, 1885, part annexed to Cambridge. March 9, 1898, bounds between Watertown and Cambridge established and part of each place annexed to the other. May 23, 1903, bounds between Watertown and Belmont established.

Wayland—March 11, 1835, name changed from East Sudbury. April 26, 1850, bounds between Wayland and Natick established.

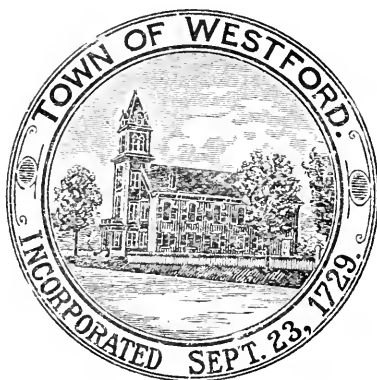
West Cambridge—February 27, 1807, part of Cambridge. February 25, 1842, part of Charlestown annexed. April 30, 1850, part included in the new town of Winchester. March 18, 1859, part included in the new town of Belmont. January 31, 1861, bounds between West Cambridge and Belmont established. February 25, 1862, part of Cambridge annexed. April 13, 1867, name changed to Arlington. April 30, 1867, the act took effect.

Westford—September 23,* 1729, part of Chelmsford. September 10,* 1730, part of Groton annexed.

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Weston—January 1,* 1713, the West Precinct of Watertown.

April 19, 1754, part included in the new town of Lincoln.

Wilmington—September 25,* 1730, parts of Reading and Woburn.

Winchester—April 30, 1850, parts of Medford, West Cambridge, and Woburn. May 12, 1873, part annexed to Woburn.

Woburn—September 27,* 1612, Charlestowne Village. May 29,* 1644, bounds between Woburn and Reading established. October 19,* 1664, two thousand acres of land granted to Woburn. October 10,* 1666, bounds between Woburn and Billerica established. October 12,* 1669, bounds between Woburn and Billerica established. September 25,* 1730, part included in the new town of Wilmington. July 28,* 1741, bounds between Woburn and Billerica established. February 28, 1799, part established as Burlington. April 30, 1850, part included in the new town of Winchester. May 12, 1873, part of Winchester annexed. May 18, 1888, Woburn incorporated as a city. May 29, 1888, act of incorporation accepted by the town. April 20, 1895, part of Woburn annexed to Stoneham.

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